Fido Cares
We give you FidoDollars℠ so you can get your next phone for less.

fido

The world's largest global newspaper
metro®
VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Murphy's death devastates husband

pg 38

Thierry Mugler
Dreams and fantasies come true with the celestial, delicious & voluptuous fragrance of ANGEL by Thierry Mugler.
Available at the Bay

Mount Pleasant emergency shelter opens

HOMELESS A new emergency shelter opened last night in Mount Pleasant, offering beds for 40 people and two meals a day.

The temporary shelter at RainyCity Housing at 677 East Broadway will be open 24 hours a day until April 30, 2010, and was funded by the province and City of Vancouver.

The city identified Mount Pleasant as a neighbourhood with a "substantial homeless population" but lacking shelter services. METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Sports pg 24

Canucks lay Predators low

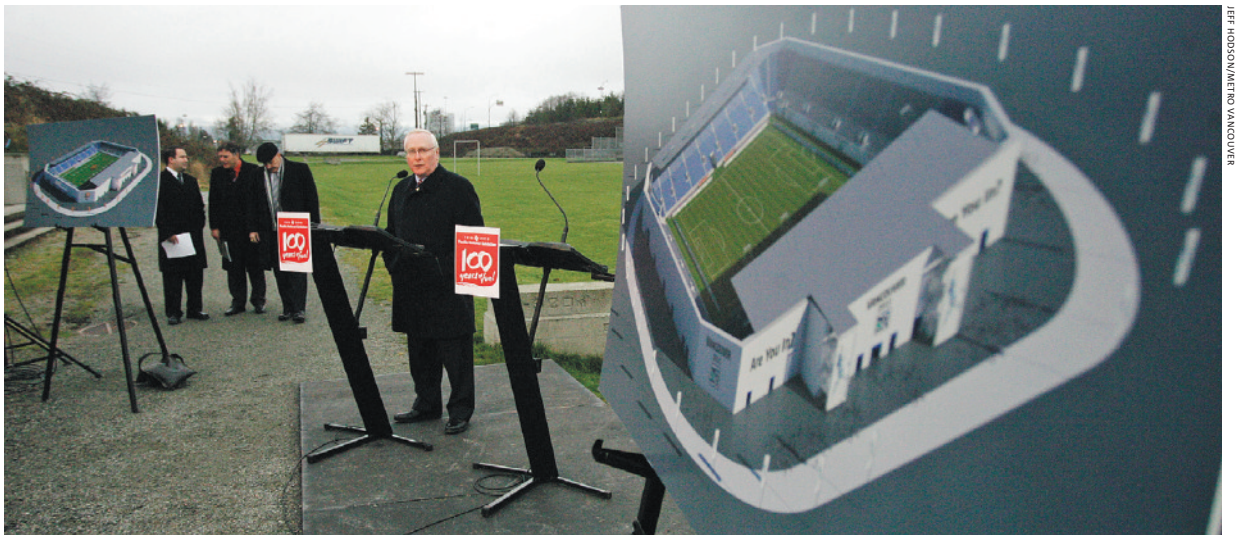
Entertainment pg 35

Trends of the decade

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Please recycle



JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

PavCo chair David Podmore announces a temporary stadium that will be constructed on the site of the old Empire Stadium in East Vancouver yesterday. The B.C. Lions and Vancouver Whitecaps will use the stadium while a new retractable roof is put on B.C. Place.

Stadium to rise on Empire site

$14M temporary home to Lions, 'Caps will treat teams, fans to elements

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The B.C. Lions will play their 2010 home games in the sun, sleet and rain in a 27,500-seat temporary open-air stadium built on the former site of Empire Stadium in East Vancouver, officials announced yesterday.

The $14-million venue (part of which will be reused from temporary Olympic venues) will play home to the B.C. Lions and, in 2011, the Vancouver Whitecaps, while a new retractable roof is installed on B.C. Place.

The venue will not be called Empire Stadium, however, but will be named later in a sponsorship deal.

It will be constructed in a mere 10 weeks, beginning after the 2010 Games in March, and should open in mid-June.

It will feature covered seating on the sidelines, suites, as well as media facilities, concessions and washrooms.

The artificial turf from B.C. Place will be used instead of grass.

Despite not having the historic name, representatives of the B.C. Lions and the Vancouver Whitecaps waxed nostalgic during a press conference at the site.

"We look at 2010 as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said George Chayka, the Lions' vice-president of business.

"It's the first time we've played outdoors here in British Columbia in 27 years. We have a generation of fans, 30 years and younger, that have never seen a game outdoors."

Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi, who grew up blocks from the PNE, scored a shootout goal in 1974 during the Whitecaps' first game at Empire.

"Absence does make the heart grow fonder," Lenarduzzi said. "On a cold, wet night, (Empire) wasn't a great place to be, but it seems people have forgotten those things. Sometimes the elements make for a better game."

The 'Caps, who will play their 2010 season at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, will make the jump to Empire for the first handful of home games in their inaugural 2011 Major League Soccer season.

Historical mile

- In 1954, the newly built Empire Stadium was the site of the "miracle mile," one of the most important moments in sports, when two runners ran the distance in less than four minutes.

School board employees on leave upon porn allegations

Some Vancouver school board employees have been placed on administrative leave after porn was allegedly found on their computers.

The Vancouver School Board is in the midst of an investigation into the issue, according to spokesperson David Weir.

"Vancouver School Board unions have been notified that there is an investigation underway and those involved have been placed on leave with pay," Weir said.

"Students were not in any risk at any point," added Weir. "This is not a criminal investigation, it is strictly an internal one."

The Vancouver School Board operates 125 worksites, not all of which are schools. Board officials are not saying whether the worksite in question is a school.

A spokesperson for the British Columbia Teachers' Federation said the union is aware of the investigation, but would not comment until its officials gather more information.

The names of those involved have not been released and the board did not say how many staff members were placed on leave. SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Capture life as it happens with the Nokia N86 8MP.

Life is an exciting journey, especially with the Nokia N86 8MP. With Nokia's exclusive Ovi Maps and GPS, you can plan virtually every twist and turn in the road. And you can hang on to every moment with its award winning 8 megapixel camera. You can even share updates on Facebook along the way. From cool apps to 3D maps, the Nokia N86 8MP is full of life.

NOKIA
Connecting People

Now available at
ROGERS™

Go to **ovi.com** to discover new apps, maps, and more for your Nokia phone.

NOKIA
ovi

© 2009 Nokia. All rights reserved. Nokia, NSeries, N86, Nokia Connecting People and Ovi are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation.

™Rogers & Mobius design are trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc.

Downloading of applications, maps, games, music and videos and uploading of images and videos involves transferring large amounts of data. Your service provider may charge for the data transmission. Contact your service provider for information about data transmission charges. The availability and accuracy of GPS location services are dependent on wireless networks, satellite systems, and the agency receiving the information. It may not function in all areas or at all times. You should never rely solely on GPS products for essential communications like emergencies. Wireless service is required to use many features. Some networks have limitations that affect how you can use this device. Contact your service provider about feature support and availability.

News on the Move IN THREE EASY STEPS

1 DOWNLOAD THE **FREE** SCANLIFE APPLICATION WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE AT 2DSCAN.COM

2 USE THE SCANLIFE APPLICATION ON YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN 2D BARCODES IN METRO

3 THE CODES WILL DIRECT YOUR MOBILE BROWSER TO RELEVANT CONTENT AT M.METRONEWS.CA

SCANLIFE

Local

See rare animals at science event

Animal conservationists Safari Jeff and Shannon will be bringing their collection of rare animals to the Telus World of Science from Dec. 27 to Jan. 3 for its Science on the Beach event. Animals will include Father Time, a giant tortoise, Little Foot, an American alligator, and El Toro, left, an albino bull snake.

METRO VANCOUVER

FOLIO AWARDS METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

GRINCH A real-life Grinch has made off with a Burnaby family's entire stash of Christmas presents after breaking into their home Monday. The thief also stole their TV, computer and jewelry. This was the family's first Christmas in Canada after emigrating from Ireland in July.

SECURITY B.C. Hydro is beefing up security during the Olympics at its dams and transmission facilities at a cost of roughly $7 million, CBC News Online reports. The Brilliant Dam near Castlegar, which is a day's drive from the nearest Olympic venue, is getting new gates and 24-hour security.

MURALS A wall of murals along Beatty Street, commissioned by the Steve Nash Foundation in 2007, has been painted over by a crew hired by the city, news1130.com reports. A spokesperson for the city said the murals — which were near several Olympic venues — were considered a temporary installation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Backbeat suggests giving the gift of vinyl this year

ADVERTISE TODAY! 1 888 91 metro (63876)

STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Sgt. David Goddard displays seized drugs and guns yesterday at the RCMP headquarters in Vancouver.

Nine busted after drug investigation

CRIME Nine people aged 32 to 53 were arrested and a large quantity of drugs, weapons and ingredients used to make drugs have been seized after a year-long RCMP investigation.

Mounties displayed the goods at RCMP headquarters in Vancouver yesterday, including $250,000 in cash, horse tranquilizers and weapons armed with bayonets.

Staff Sgt. David Goddard said the seizure of the drug making-ingredients was important.

"We collected enough evidence that we are going to attempt to report to court (that) the intent of having these chemicals was to make the final product (drugs)," Goddard said.

B.C. Solicitor General Kash Heed called the drug bust "significant."

"The government of B.C. will continue to press the federal government for tougher regulations on materials to make illicit drugs that imperil our children," Heed said.

Goddard added the potentially poisonous drug-making ingredients will be properly disposed of.

"Instead of this going into a landfill, we will now destroy this as per the instructions from Health Canada."

STIG NIELSEN/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for more Local news on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of this page

Bottled water battle dawns

Committee looks to promote tap water beyond Olympics

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

Athletes will not be the only ones facing fierce competition during the Games — so will those waging the battle over water.

A new campaign spearheaded by Metro Vancouver's water committee, which is chaired by city Coun. Tim Stevenson, will see the committee rally against the consumption of bottled water throughout the city.

"It's a broader campaign than just the Olympics," said Stevenson. "It's about our new water-filtration plant. But we are asking hotels and restaurants to push our tap water to those visiting from around the world during the Games."

The water-filtration plant in question, the $650-million Capilano-Seymour Reservoir, will have water flowing in early January in time for those visiting for the Olympics.

"We want visitors from other countries who may not drink the tap water in their homes to exercise that option when they are here. Because of our new facility, Vancouver will have the finest tap water you can get."

Spokespersons for Coca-Cola, a major sponsor of the 2010 Games and owner of the Dasani line of bottled water, said their company is comfortable with the campaign.

"Bottled water is not promoted by Coca-Cola to compete with tap water," said spokesperson Kristy Payne. "If one consumer chooses tap water over bottled water, then another will choose the convenience of bottled water."

Supreme Court spurns women ski jumpers' last-ditch Olympics bid

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

APPEAL Olympic ski jumping is officially an all-boys' club after Canada's highest court quashed female jumpers' last-ditch bid to compete in the 2010 Games.

The Supreme Court of Canada has decided not to hear arguments in the case of a group of elite women jumpers who sued VANOC for the right to jump in the Vancouver Olympics.

"We are very disappointed," said Ross Clark, the lawyer for the women.

"The textbook gender discrimination found by the lower-court judge should have been examined by the highest court in the land."

Deedee Corradini, president of Women's Ski Jumping USA, said the jumpers will be taking their fight to the 2014 Games in Sochi, Russia.

"No qualified athlete should be denied the right to participate in the Olympics because of gender," she said.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

The newest Android.™

ON The New Bell Network

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE (662453) • bell.ca

Samsung Galaxy™ smartphone with Google™

$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[1] ($449.95 no term)

The slimmest Android!

Offer ends December 31, 2009. Available with compatible HSPA/HSPA+ devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility (HSPA/HSPA+) and its partners' coverage areas where technology permits. HSPA/HSPA+ not available everywhere. One-time device activation ($35) fee applies. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. [1] With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $50/mo. You must keep a min. $50/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. Samsung Galaxy is a trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Google, Android, and Android Market are trademarks of Google, Inc.

Don't bring wrapped presents on board, airport staff warn

Vancouver International Airport is asking travellers not to include wrapped Christmas gifts as carry-on luggage as they have to be scanned at security and may have to be unwrapped. Instead, the airport is offering complimentary gift-wrapping services past the security check-in. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Thieves lift MIT student's laptop — and thesis

A 23-year-old aeronautics student's academic future is up in the air after his laptop — which contained his master's degree research — was stolen from a backpack he left in his car at Burnaby Lake, B.C.

"I was just devastated," said Russell Stratton, who's home for the holidays between finishing a master's program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge and applying to a PhD program.

"I have (some of the work) backed up, but there's probably 50 or 60 hours of work in there."

Stratton had gone to his mother's choir show on Sunday night and left his work in his car. When he came out afterward, his car window was smashed and the backpack was gone.

"It had (my) textbooks, all my handwritten notes from throughout my degree, notes I made from studying for exams — which I need to write to get in the PhD program in January," Stratton said.

Information

- Anyone with information can email Stratton at rwstrat@mit.edu or call him at 857-523-9343.

Also gone was his laptop, which had the research he needed to get into the PhD program, and $150 in cash — a Christmas gift from his dad.

Stratton's father returned to the park yesterday and found the backpack in a dumpster, along with the textbooks and notes. There was no sign of the computer.

He said it's not about the money, but the work — which is useless to anyone who isn't interested in aircraft design and aeronautics — and he'd be happy just to get the hard drive back.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Shoppers go online to avoid holiday crowds

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

"I did send some presents in the mail and paid $500. That's twice what they were worth."
Richard Wallace

The normally hectic Vancouver malls and streets were a little quieter this holiday season, and online shopping may be to blame.

The prospect of avoiding long lines, expensive parking and high postage costs for sending presents to distant loved ones had some Vancouverites turning to their computers to aid their gift-buying needs.

"I'm from Dublin, so online shopping is just easier," said Richard Wallace. "And they take care of the delivery. Canada Post would only guarantee on-time delivery before Dec. 1."

While Wallace did most of his shopping via the Internet, he was forced to send a few items the traditional route.

"I did send some presents in the mail and paid $500. That's twice what they were worth."

Keira Dimoff also shopped online this season. She likes the convenience it affords her.

"I was able to stay at home instead of running across town on my day off," she said. "And I still got exactly what I was looking for."

Amazon Canada spokesperson Sally Fouts said her company has been busy for weeks.

"It's definitely always our peak time of year, but this year has been a crazy one," she said.

Pit bull shot after attacking police dog

ANIMALS Mounties shot and killed a pit bull after it attacked a police dog in Chilliwack yesterday.

According to RCMP, officers were conducting a training exercise in the 46000 block of Fifth Avenue when a pit bull left an unfenced neighbouring yard and attacked the police dog, biting it on the throat.

Officers were unable to separate the two dogs and shot the pit bull because the police dog was suffocating and was in danger of dying.

Victim Services were called to the scene to provide support to the dog's owner.

An investigation will examine the degree of force used and whether it was lawful and within RCMP policy. METRO VANCOUVER

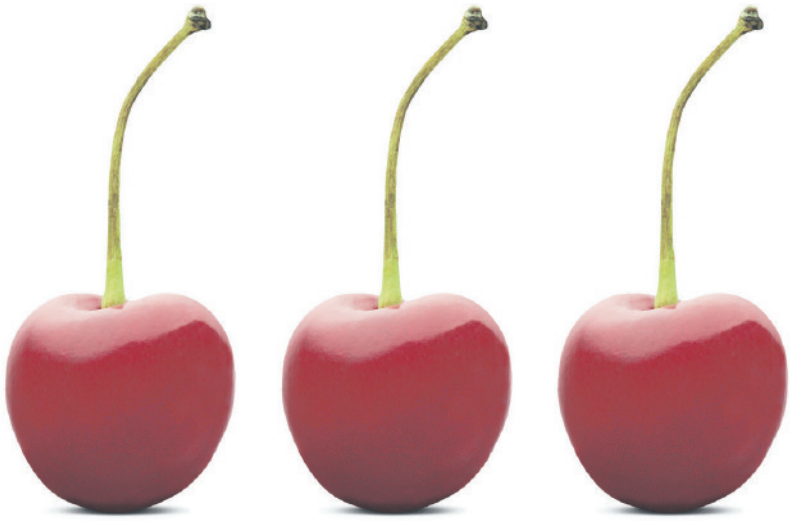
News in brief

PULP MILL A tax standoff between Castlegar and its biggest employer may be over. The Zellstoff Celgar pulp mill has decided to start paying its municipal taxes after claiming it's being charged unfair tax rates while being hammered by the recession. The company is making an immediate payment of about $470,000.

BACON Fraud charges against alleged gangster Jonathan Bacon have been thrown out of court. Crown prosecutors made the decision, believing the charges would not have resulted in a conviction. Bacon was charged after a car was leased using false documents. Bacon's co-accused in the case, Dennis Karbovanec, is in jail for his role in the Surrey Six killings.

CRASH RCMP in Kamloops have released the name of a 14-year-old boy who was killed on Sunday in a head-on collision on Highway 5. Nathan Floyd was pronounced dead at Royal Inland Hospital. Police are investigating the cause of the crash.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jackpot!

Switch to TELUS High Speed and save.

Switching your High Speed to TELUS is easy, especially when you hear the price.

Sign up today and get:

- 1 month FREE*
- Wireless home networking
- TELUS security services
- 24/7/365 support

Just

$15/mo†.

for 6 months in a bundle, no contract required.

Switch today and save. Call 310-4NET (4638).

*1 month of new services available for free to clients who have not subscribed to the requested services in the past 90 days and will be applied to the client's account within the first 12 months of service. †Offer available until December 31, 2009, to new clients who have not signed up for TELUS High Speed Internet service in the past 90 days. Rate shown is available when combined with one or more other TELUS home services. New High Speed clients receive an additional $15 off the regular price each month in months 2 to 6. Regular bundled rate of $30/month starts on month 7. An additional $5 per month will apply to monthly plan rates for High Speed clients who are not on a TELUS home bundle. Other charges may change (for instance, for additional download/upload data usage) and additional charges may apply on 30 days notice to the client. © 2009 TELUS.

TELUS

the future is friendly®

Newest SeaBus takes maiden voyage today

TransLink is unveiling its newest SeaBus, the MV Burrard Pacific Breeze — near Waterfront Station this morning. The vessel will take its first journey from Vancouver to Lonsdale Quay around 10 a.m., and will be in-service for commuters departing from North Vancouver at 10:46 a.m. METRO VANCOUVER

Rules for Games undercover agents?

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

While police say their officers may infiltrate activist groups during the Olympics, security officers say their agents will not provoke others into violence.

In a statement issued yesterday, the president of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), Rob Holmes, said he was pleased with the promises the Vancouver Integrated Security Unit (VISU) has made, but remains sceptical of what the security unit would not agree to.

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

According to Holmes, the BCCLA has tried repeatedly to get VISU president Bud Mercer to agree to basic rules for undercover agents, but both parties have yet to come to terms on any formal plan.

News in brief

ATM Police are looking for two men after a customer noticed a small camera above an ATM pin pad at a Richmond bank. When the customer took the camera, two men tried to stop him.

LIBRARY Vancouver Public Library Trustees have voted to keep the Riley Park branch open 35 hours a week thanks to $764,000 in funding restored by city council. Hours will be reduced at seven west side locations as part of city budget cuts.

DEATH An 84-year-old Ladner man reported missing Friday has been found dead by two hikers in the Chilliwack Lake area. Foul play is not suspected.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

RBC Royal Bank®

TORCH RELAY
RELAIS DE LA FLAMME
vancouver 2010

PRESENTING PARTNER
PARTENAIRE PRINCIPAL

This isn't the time to get just any mortgage.
It's time to get the right one.

BEST RATE OFFERS*
RBC Homeline Plan®

5 Year Variable Rate Closed[1]	2.25%
Line of Credit[2]	2.75%

Now is the time to consult an RBC® Mortgage Specialist. RBC advice can help you take advantage of current interest rates, through an RBC Homeline Plan: a flexible mortgage that's part fixed – for peace-of-mind – and part variable – so you can benefit from today's low rates. And we can recommend one of the best priced lines of credit available in the market today. To take advantage of our advice, and our rates, **talk to an RBC Mortgage Specialist today. Visit a branch or rbc.com/mortgageadvice**

CREATE
A FUTURE WITH PEACE OF MIND

Proud Presenting Partner of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

TM1

™2009, VANOC. All Rights Reserved. Personal lending products and residential mortgages are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to standard lending criteria. Some conditions apply. * Rates shown are Royal Bank of Canada's best rates based on current promotions offered to the general public. Offer may be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time without notice. Not available in combination with any other rate discounts, offers or promotions. 1 Interest rate for the variable rate closed mortgage is our prime rate. The interest rate will change as our prime rate changes. APR 2.29%. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is based on a $100,000 mortgage for the term indicated and assumes certain cost of borrowing charges (for example, appraisal charges). If there are no cost of borrowing charges, APR and annual interest rate will be the same. 2. Interest rate for the line of credit is based upon Royal Bank of Canada's prime rate, plus 0.5%. Prime rate as of October 19, 2009 is 2.25% and will change as our prime rate changes and without notice. ®Registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ™1Trademark of Royal Bank of Canada.

There's a ticket for
everyone on your list.

vancouver 2010 vancouver 2010 bclc OFFICIAL SUPPORTER

Scratch &WiN

bclc *Know your limit, play within it.* 19+ YEARS

Man convicted in RCMP officer's death planning appeal

The man found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting death of a Hay River, N.W.T., RCMP officer has launched an appeal. Jurors last month in Yellowknife convicted Emrah Bulatci, 25, in the killing of Const. Christopher Worden in October 2007. Bulatci received the mandatory sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole for at least 25 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Missing teen might be in Lafleur video

Quebec police have released a clip of a recent television interview with hockey great Guy Lafleur, left, in the hopes of cracking a missing teen case. In the 11-second clip, a teenager bearing a strong resemblance to missing Quebecer David Fortin appears in the background. The Lafleur interview was recorded at Montreal's Bell Centre in early December. Fortin, 15, disappeared last February after leaving his Alma, Que., home for school.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court rules for new libel defence

The Supreme Court of Canada offered journalists and bloggers a new defence against libel yesterday in a pair of rulings that were hailed as a landmark victory for free speech.

The rulings effectively exonerated the Toronto Star and Ottawa Citizen newspapers and created the new "responsible journalism" defence that will give reporters more leeway to pursue controversial stories as long as they are deemed to be in the public interest.

Media lawyers hailed the creation of the new defence as a major step towards reducing so-called libel chill, which prompts journalists to back away from contentious stories for fear of being sued, often by powerful interests with deep pockets to pay their lawyers.

The rulings also saved the two newspapers from paying out more than $1.5 million in damages, including $1 million for punitive damages against the Star, one of the largest such awards in Canadian libel history.

The Star story in question was about controversial plans for a golf course, while the Citizen's articles scrutinized the activities of a former police officer.

Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin, writing for the unanimous 9-0 court, said the existing libel defences were too restrictive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Factual errors

- The rulings mean journalists can make factual errors, but as long as they take a series of steps to ensure fairness in stories that are deemed to be in the public interest, they cannot be successfully sued for libel.

Cancer drugs in junk food?

HEALTH Ottawa wants to know what you think about its unusual proposal to put a cancer-fighting drug into junk food.

Health Canada is inviting public comments until Feb. 21 on its idea to have small amounts of the enzyme asparaginase put into foods like potato chips and french fries.

At issue is the chemical acrylamide, which is found as a cooking byproduct in the production of foods like french fries and potato chips and has been linked to cancer in animals. Research suggests asparaginase reduces acrylamide production.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kandahar **Early Christmas for troops**

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Master Warrant Officer Charlotte Hawes serves Christmas dinner at the Canadian military-civilian outreach base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, yesterday. Soldiers, many sporting Santa hats or reindeer horns, enjoyed some holiday fun and food.

Boycott does not stop meeting

AFGHANISTAN A House of Commons committee looking into the Afghan detainee controversy is going ahead with a meeting today despite a boycott by Conservative MPs.

Liberal, NDP and Bloc Québécois MPs on the special committee on Afghanistan decided to hold an informal meeting after they failed to achieve quorum.

They are hearing from retired diplomat Gar Pardy and Paul Champ, lawyer for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

Pardy recently organized a letter from more than 100 former ambassadors criticizing the Harper government for attacking the credibility of diplomat Richard Colvin, who says he warned the government in 2006 about torture.

The committee is looking into whether the government knew prior to 2007 that detainees being handed over by Canadian troops to Afghan authorities were being abused.

The government insists it never knew of any abuse before 2007, when it changed the prisoner transfer agreement to allow for monitoring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opposition

- New Democrat MP Paul Dewar said the Tories would rather "slurp eggnog and eat bon bons" than get to the bottom of this issue.

Embassy lacking in beer options

WASHINGTON Canada has a reputation for producing a wide variety of excellent beers, but tipplers visiting the Canadian Embassy had just three choices of brews recently — Molson Canadian, Alexander Keith's Ale or Blue Light.

According to documents obtained through Freedom of Information legislation, the gleaming embassy on iconic Pennsylvania Avenue offers up a long list of Canadian wines to visitors, among them pinot noirs, merlots, Gewurztraminers and rieslings from an array of vineyards across the country.

Pity the poor Canadian beer drinker, however — as of Oct. 31 of this year, only those three basic brews were available.

As craft breweries and brew pubs take off in Canada, one Canadian beer expert says it's a shame the embassy isn't doing a better job introducing Americans to some quality suds brewed north of the 49th parallel.

"We should absolutely be offering up better than those three," Stephen Beaumont said in a recent interview.

"It's completely irresponsible on their part — they are supposed to be there promoting Canadian interests abroad. It's insulting to beer. For them to have a huge wine list and three very similar-tasting Canadian beers out of all we have available in this country is a disgrace."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

Sponsored by Money Mart

NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	415	173	256	429
2. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	417	175	248	423
3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	421	194	225	419
4. Cole Warren	NS, CA	422	151	267	418
4. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	421	174	244	418
6. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	418	180	233	413
6. Kelly Wrishko	AB, CA	417	171	242	413
6. Paula Almeida-Stille		421	173	240	413
6. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	421	173	240	413
10. Rick Kit	ON, CA	417	179	232	411
11. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	417	171	239	410
12. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	413	169	238	407
13. Brian B	AB, CA	417	173	233	406
13. Claude Brunelle	BC, CA	424	167	239	406
13. Sarah Jackson	ON, CA	409	162	244	406

*Results exclude Quebec

markerzone.com metro

m.metronews.ca

Though the heady days of '00' years are gone, the lens-unfriendly '1' hasn't hurt the New Year's novelty specs market. Scan this barcode for the story.

The newest Nokia.

ON The New Bell Network

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE (662453) • bell.ca

Nokia N97

$199.95 with a $50 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term† ($599.95 no term)

Exclusive!

Offer ends December 31, 2009. Available with compatible HSPA/HSPA+ devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility (HSPA/HSPA+) and its partners' coverage areas where technology permits. HSPA/HSPA+ not available everywhere. One-time device activation ($35) fee applies. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (†) With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $50/mo. You must keep a min. $50/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. Nokia and N97 are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation.

TOYOTA

best wrap-up ever!

Now is a great time to get your Toyota.

0% financing on 2010 Corolla and Matrix*

up to $2000 in seasonal cash savings on selected models**

plus 120 day no payment financing on all models†

Toyota leasing options available.

Leasing is a great way to get into the Toyota of your choice.
Ask your Toyota Dealer about competitive rates and flexible terms.

See your local Toyota Dealer today.

TOYOTA
make things better

toyota.ca

* Limited time purchase financing offer provided through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit on new retail sales of qualifying models. Representative finance example based upon $20,000 financed at 0% APR equals $555.56 per month for 36 months. $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0, for a total obligation of $20,000. Taxes, freight and PDI of $1320, license, insurance, registration and applicable duties, levies and fees are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ** The up to $2000 customer incentive offer is valid on retail delivery of select new unregistered Toyota vehicles, when purchased or leased from a Canadian Toyota dealership. Vehicle must be purchased/leased, registered and delivered by January 4, 2010. Quantities of certain vehicles are limited and dealer trade may be required. Dealer trade availability may also be limited and will vary by model.Offer ends January 4, 2010. See your Toyota Dealer to determine if tax applies before or after the application of the offer in your jurisdiction. † Make No Payments for 120 Days when you purchase finance a new unregistered Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services. Offer applies on approved credit to retail customers who purchase and take delivery by January 4, 2010. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 90 days (until the 120th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 90 days of the contract. After 90 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract. */**/† Offers subject to change/cancellation without notice. See your participating Toyota dealer or visit www.toyota.ca for details.

Maclean's founder's home saved for now

The Ontario government has stepped in to prevent any further damage to the home of the founder of Maclean's magazine. Minister of Culture Aileen Carroll issued a stop order Monday to keep the Toronto home of John MacLean safe while the province looks at its potential heritage significance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec backpedals on NB Power deal

Charest says agreement still up for negotiation

The Quebec government was suddenly singing a more conciliatory tune over its planned purchase of New Brunswick's power utility, suggesting yesterday the deal was still open for negotiation.

Just one day after Quebec's natural resources minister suggested the purchase of NB Power was a done deal and would not be changed, both she and Premier Jean Charest were saying the exact opposite.

"There are discussions," Charest told TVA network. "There could be improvements. It could happen."

For her part, Natural Resources Minister Nathalie Normandeau had a strikingly different message from the one she delivered 24 hours earlier.

She now says an agreement-in-principle was signed on Oct. 29, and that negotiations are continuing as New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham brings forward the concerns of critics who aren't yet sold on the deal.

> **"There could be improvements. It could happen."**
> Jean Charest, Quebec premier

"It's in this spirit of openness that our discussions continue with New Brunswick," Normandeau said in an interview.

"There's an important nuance to make between renegotiating an agreement-in-principle and making adjustments."

The sale is a hot potato for the New Brunswick government, which has come under intense political fire over its plan to sell NB Power's assets to Hydro-Quebec for about $4.8 billion.

Critics have slammed the government for selling off key assets. Neighbouring provinces and states have also expressed concern, arguing that it will create a quasi-monopoly for Hydro Quebec in the Atlantic region.

The Opposition Conservatives in New Brunswick have also complained that the details are not being properly shared with the public. The government has defended the sale by saying the money will help the province make investments in areas, like education, that will lead to a more prosperous future for New Brunswick.

It has also sought to fend off much of the criticism by saying final details are still being worked out.

Normandeau's suggestion Monday that negotiations were finished raised some eyebrows in New Brunswick.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Torch relay **On the Thames**

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mary Antone of The Oneida on the Thames runs with the Vancouver 2010 Olympic torch in front of Ed Antone in Muncey, Ont. The Olympic torch relay continued through southern Ontario, ending the day in Chatham. **Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.**

Carbon tax not ruled out: Harper

OTTAWA Prime Minister Stephen Harper is not ruling out a carbon tax for Canada sometime in the future.

Harper was asked point blank in a year-end interview with CTV News whether Canadians will ever see such a tax. He said the government will have to see what the U.S. decides to do so it can be part of a harmonized North American climate-change plan.

Harper hammered former Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion for making a carbon tax the centrepiece of his environmental plan during the last election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HEALTH The public is being warned to avoid eating a brand of salami because it may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes. The warning from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Siena Foods of Toronto covers Siena brand mild Cacciatore Salami.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro on the Mountain Night at Cypress
Cut out this advertisement and bring it to Cypress Mountain today anytime after 4 p.m. to receive 25% off of your lift ticket.
Enter to win Cypress Mountain lift tickets at metronews.ca
metro

CYPRESS MOUNTAIN
Your ticket to the mountain!
Exchange this voucher on the mountain at the Alpine Ticket Office.
VALID FOR TODAY ONLY - DECEMBER 23, 2009
Limited one per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Must have original coupon. Not valid with any lesson package.
sp: metro
Photo provided by Cypress Mountain

p2b bistro & bar
at Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel
Great Views of Coal Harbour, North Shore Mountains and the Olympic Rings in Coal Harbour!
Festive Offerings
Festive Lunch Buffet
December 14th to 24th
Monday to Friday
$28.00 per person + taxes
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Dinner Buffet
$65.00 per person + taxes
Come celebrate the holidays and enjoy this awesome buffet with your family & friends.
Contact us at p2b bistro & bar for reservations and more details.
1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
Reservations: 604-691-2777
www.p2bbistro.com

Scrooge
Tonight at 8
CBC

7 Day Alaska Cruise
from $309
cruiseconcepts
EXPERTS IN THE ART OF CRUISING
Taxes & Surcharges Extra • Based on Double Occupancy
1.888.340.7447

G4S
G4S Security Services (Canada) Ltd.
HIRING NOW
BST Qualified Security Guards for Olympic Positions
Starting at $14.00/hour. Car an asset.
fax resumes to 604-683-0621

GIFTS MADE EASY™

EASY ON YOUR BUDGET AND EASY TO GET TO
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 & THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24†

LAST MINUTE GIFTS THEY'LL LOVE

19.99 each

ESCAPE, ETERNITY MOMENT, **CONTRADICTION** EAU DE PARFUM (50mL), **MACKIE, SWISS ARMY** CLASSIC (100mL), **CONTRADICTION** (50mL) EAU DE TOILETTE, **PERRY ELLIS** 360 LADIES, MEN (3 Pc) or **OSCAR** (2 Pc) SET
While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks

29.99 set

HARAJUKU LOVERS
ANGEL, BABY, GWEN, LOVE or MUSIC SET
Selected Types Contains: Eau de Toilette (30mL) and Solid Perfume Compact (1.2g)

$55 set

CK Men's or Ladies Coffret sets

$70 set

FRAGRANCE SAMPLER and CERTIFICATE FOR HIM or HER Includes a Fragrance Gift Certificate valued at up to $85 for a bottle of your favourite scent - plus 10 FREE samples to help you choose!
While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks

25% off*

CALGON BATH or **TRAVEL GIFT SET**
Selected Types

39.99 set

QUO MASTER BRUSH SET

14.99 each

AVEENO Energizer Holiday Pack

19.99 set

MEN'S Interchangeable Watch Set

15% off*

PHILIPS or **BRAUN** SHAVERS or TRIMMERS
Selected Types

OH WHAT FUN

99.99 each

SONY DSC-W180 10.1 MEGA PIXEL 3X OPTICAL ZOOM DIGITAL CAMERA
SONY 4GB MEMORY STICK PRO DUO - 29.99

79.99 each

LLOYD'S 7" PORTABLE DVD PLAYER
+ Environmental Handling or Disposal Fee where applicable

149.99 each

SONY 5 MEGA PIXEL MOBILE HD SNAP CAMERA While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks.

29.99 each

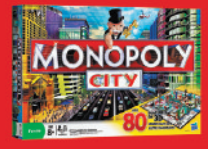
VTECH CORDLESS PHONE
- DECT 6.0
- Caller ID
- Interference Free

39.99 each

PRINCESS STORYTELLER
ALARM CLOCK, CARS or PRINCESS JEWELLRY BOOM BOX

34.99 each

EQUIP 44 KEY PIANO with LCD SCREEN



29.99 each

MONOPOLY CITY BOARD GAME

29.99 each

SESAME STREET TICKLE HANDS ELMO

29.99 each

BARBIE FAB GIRL

15.99 each

20 QUESTIONS
GAME CHANGES COLOUR!

19.99 each

Hockey Night in Canada DVD Game

39.99 each

SCENE IT? TWILIGHT DVD GAME

THE SWEETEST GIFTS

6.99 each

LINDT Boxed Chocolates 168g Selected Types

3.99 each

LIFE BRAND HAZELNUT BALLS (200g), BELGIAN FINGERS (300g) or SEASHELLS (250g)

5.99 each

TOBLERONE BAR 400g Selected Types

9.99 each

LIFE BRAND Gourmet Jelly Beans 900g

4.99 each

DELECTO MILK, DARK ASSORTED Boxed Chocolate (370g) or **LINDT LINDOR CHOCOLATE** Bag (150g) Selected Types

†While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks.

Prices are in effect Wednesday December 23 & Thursday, December 24, 2009 only. While quantities last. No Rainchecks. *Our Regular Price.

working late? shop even later.

From holiday cards and last minute gifts to wrapping paper and ribbon, most of our stores are open late with everything you need to finish your list.

Most Stores OPEN Late & Christmas Day††

Visit shoppersdrugmart.ca to find a store nearest you.

††Where permitted.

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Gamblers at casino get a lucky break — crashing pickup misses them

Patrons dived for cover early yesterday when a police chase ended with a pickup truck plowing into the Niagara Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls, stopping a short distance from the gaming floor. Police say the pursuit began after a domestic dispute. A man has been charged with several offences, including attempted murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kidney gap widening, study shows

A study finds that the gap between supply and demand for donated kidneys is widening.

A report, released yesterday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, shows a significant increase in the number of kidney transplants over the past decade.

But there has been a decline in the number of these transplants relative to the number of kidney failure patients, with six transplants per 100 patient years of dialysis in 2008, compared to eight transplants per 100 patient years of dialysis in 1999.

Jean-Marie Berthelot, vice-president of programs at the institute, says the rise in demand is partly due to an increase in diabetes-related kidney failure cases in Canada.

The number of new patients with end-stage renal disease associated with diabetes nearly doubled, to nearly 1,900 in 2008 from about 1,000 in 1996.

"The need for transplantable organs has never been greater," said Dr. John Gill of the University of British Columbia.

> **"The need for transplantable organs has never been greater."**
> Dr. John Gill

Living donors accounted for 69 per cent of an increase in donors over the past decade.

But they can donate only one kidney or part of a liver or lung.

A deceased donor can provide up to six organs for transplant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax **Shot man won't talk**

PHILIP FOURCHER/METRO HALIFAX

Halifax Regional Police were at the scene of a shooting in west-end Halifax yesterday. A 23-year-old man who apparently suffered a gunshot wound to the face isn't co-operating with police. Officers say they don't believe it was a random incident and the victim knows his assailant.

Montreal priests complain English is a sin

LANGUAGE A group of Montreal priests say the house of God is going bilingual — and they're not happy.

Four Roman Catholic priests complain English has been creeping back into their churches.

They're upset that when large assemblies are held at big Montreal churches, like Notre Dame Basilica and St. Joseph's Oratory, the services are bilingual.

The priests have sent a letter to Archbishop Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte urging him to put the brakes on the expanding use of English. One priest says the message being sent to immigrants is that they can live in English.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flaherty aims to stay the course

TAX Ottawa has ruled out significant tax cuts or new spending programs for Canadians in next year's federal budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says.

With the deficit scheduled to hit a record $56 billion for 2009-2010, the finance minister told The Canadian Press in a year-end interview the government must keep spending under control and can't afford further tax cuts.

Flaherty

"I would not anticipate any new substantial spending programs or any new substantial tax reductions in the next budget. This is a stay the course budget," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

don't miss this koodo-tacular deal
and $100 gift.

Get $25 off any new QWERTY phone plus a $100 bonus gift![1]
koodomobile.com

Hurry! Offer valid until January 3, 2010.

Samsung Slyde
~~$175~~ $150 Sale price
$0 With the Tab[2]

LG KEYBO
~~$175~~ $150 Sale price
$0 With the Tab[2]

Samsung Intensity™
~~$200~~ $175 Sale price
$25 With the Tab[2]

koodo mobile™
Good call

BEST BUY FUTURE SHOP LONDON DRUGS Walmart Zellers koodo shop

Aberdeen Mall
Brentwood Town Centre
Coquitlam Centre
Guildford Town Centre
Lougheed Town Centre
Mayfair Shopping Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Oakridge Centre
Orchard Park Shopping Centre
Park Royal Shopping Centre
Richmond Centre

(1) See store for details. Bonus gift available with new activations only. While quantities last. (2) Subject to approved credit.

Boxing Day

December 26th & 27th 2009

Entire Store 50% Off

30% off watches and sunglasses

WRAP UP WARM

ARRIVE EARLY

REWARD YOURSELF

PUMA Bloor
151 Bloor St. W. Toronto,
ON M5S 1S4
416.962.7862

PUMA Montreal
1334 Ste Catherine W. Montreal,
QC H3G 1P6
514.396.7862

PUMA Vancouver
834 Granville St. Vancouver,
BC V6Z 1K3
778.329.4560

THE PUMA® STORE
puma.com

Dog recovering from H1N1 flu

Experts say a dog in suburban New York City is the United States' first confirmed to be carrying the same strain of H1N1 flu that is infecting humans. The 13-year-old mixed-breed male is recovering. Animals can carry flu viruses, but Dr. Anne Schuchat of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says "this is not a reason to be concerned." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Big Christmas haul in Spain

Spain's Christmas lottery showered hundreds of thousands of euros in prize money on Madrid yesterday. The top prize of the lottery, ranked among the world's richest, went to holders of tickets bearing the number 78294, displayed by two lottery workers, left. The number appears on 1,950 tickets, and each holder stood to win about $430,000. Two immigrant workers from the Dominican Republic were among the winners. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teen pleads no contest in Facebook sex scam

A Wisconsin teenager who blackmailed dozens of fellow high school students into sex acts by using photos and videos obtained in a Facebook scam faces up to 50 years in prison after pleading no contest to two felonies yesterday.

Anthony R. Stancl, 19, had faced 12 charges that carried a maximum penalty of nearly 300 years. He pleaded no contest to repeated sexual assault of the same child and third-degree sexual assault. In exchange, prosecutors dismissed charges that included second-degree sexual assault, child enticement and possession of child pornography.

Blackmailed into sex

- The investigation began after a 16-year-old boy told authorities he was being blackmailed into acts of oral and anal sex with Stancl. The boy, then 15, had exchanged explicit pictures of himself online with "Kayla," who later threatened to spread his picture throughout the school unless he agreed to the acts with Stancl. Stancl photographed those encounters, giving him fodder for further blackmail, detectives said.

Stancl was accused of posing as a girl online and persuading more than 30 classmates to send him naked pictures of themselves, then using the images to blackmail them for sex.

Authorities found more than 30 folders on Stancl's computer containing about 300 nude images of other male students at New Berlin Eisenhower High School.

Waukesha County district attorney Brad Schimel said he would recommend a "substantial" prison sentence and that he was satisfied with the plea agreement because Stancl still faces up to 50 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy **What is this, Toronto?**

ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian soldiers hold shovels as they walk past the Duomo cathedral in Milan yesterday. Italy has sent hundreds of soldiers to the streets of Milan after heavy snowstorms and freezing temperatures forced airports to be closed and trains to be halted. About 600 soldiers have begun to shovel snow.

Kidnapped governor murdered

COLOMBIA The governor of a southern state was found dead yesterday, his throat slit, less than 24 hours after being abducted by leftist rebels in the the first kidnapping of a major Colombian politician since 2002. The body of Luis Francisco Cuellar was found not far from where the 69-year-old was kidnapped.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court orders amputations for two men

PAKISTAN A Pakistani court has ordered the noses and ears of two men cut off after they did the same thing to a young woman whose family spurned one of the men's marriage proposal, a prosecutor said yesterday.

The anti-terrorism court in the eastern city of Lahore said it was applying Islamic law by ordering the punishment. Lahore prosecutor Chaudhry Ali Ahmed said one of the accused, Sher Mohammad, was a cousin of the 19-year-old woman and wanted to marry her.

Her parents refused his proposal.

Sher Mohammad and a friend, Amanat Mohammad, were accused of kidnapping the woman and cutting off her ears and nose in September.

The court also sentenced each man to 50 years in prison and told them to pay fines and compensation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

m.metronews.ca
ScanLife
With an available couch or great restaurant tips a tweet away, social networking has changed the way we travel. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Shoplifting OK sometimes: Priest

BRITAIN An English priest is giving some unconventional holiday advice — shoplifting may be OK.

Rev. Tim Jones was rebuked by fellow clergy and shopowners yesterday after delivering a Sunday sermon in which he said it was sometimes acceptable for desperate people to shoplift from large chain stores.

From his pulpit, Jones told his congregation that shoplifting can be justified if a person in real need is not greedy. The remarks sparked a firestorm of protest. Jones told The Associated Press that he stands by his comments. He said he regretted only that most of the focus had been on his shoplifting comments rather than his other points.

"The point I'm making is that when we shut down every socially acceptable avenue for people in need, then the only avenue left is the socially unacceptable one," he said, adding that people are often released from prison without any means of support.

"What I'm against is the way society has become ever more comfortable with the people at the very bottom," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"When we shut down every socially acceptable avenue for people in need, then the only avenue left is the socially unacceptable one."
Rev. Tim Jones in defending his sermon

News in brief

KANSAS A judge says the law doesn't allow a so-called "necessity defence" in the trial of a man charged with killing one of the United States' few late-term abortion providers. The ruling was another blow to lawyers for Scott Roeder, who has confessed to shooting Dr. George Tiller in May, and says it was necessary in order to save unborn children.

ARIZONA Officials say a dust storm has led to 20 or more collisions on Interstate 10 in central Arizona, with several vehicles catching fire. Authorities say at least one person has died and several were injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TWO DAYS ONLY

SALE ON SALE

SAVE AN EXTRA

30%*

ON ALL SALE ITEMS

DECEMBER 26–27

BANANA REPUBLIC

*Offer valid December 26-27, 2009, at Banana Republic stores in the U.S. and Canada only. Not valid at Banana Republic Factory Stores, Edition by Banana Republic or BananaRepublic.com. Discount applies to merchandise only, not value of Giftcards purchased, packaging or applicable taxes. Offer limited to one-time use only. No adjustments on previous purchases. Not valid for cash or cash equivalent. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts including Gap Inc. employee discount.

Former mountain biking champ pleads guilty to drug charges

Former U.S. mountain biking world champion Melissa (Missy) Giove has pleaded guilty to helping run a coast-to-coast marijuana-smuggling ring. She was arrested in upstate New York last June after one of the ring's couriers was intercepted driving a truck carrying 350 pounds of marijuana. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Details could scuttle prisoner swap

Israel delivered its counter-demands yesterday for a deal with Hamas to exchange about 1,000 Palestinian prisoners for a single Israeli soldier held captive by Gaza militants for more than three years.

As families on both sides agonized over the outcome, last-minute differences over who should be freed or sent into exile threatened to imperil the deal.

Israel insists on expelling some West Bank-born prisoners to the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip or abroad and balks at releasing some inmates high on the Hamas wish list, said a senior Hamas official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not supposed to brief reporters.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak appeared to be trying to temper expectations when he told a group of students that returning Sgt. Gilad Schalit was a "top priority" — but "not at any price," a reference to Palestinian prisoners convicted of bloody attacks.

The Hamas official said that while progress has been made, a deal is not imminent.

A Hamas website, al-Risalah, said a German mediator would meet later with Hamas leaders in Gaza who will "take a final and conclusive decision on what the German mediator brings from his visit to the occupied territories."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Sony Ericsson X1, HTC Magic and BlackBerry Bold 9000 (white) available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan having min. $45 monthly service fee. Nokia N86 8MP and LG Eve available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan. All other devices featured available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice plan. Early cancellation fees apply.
TMRogers & Mobius Design are trademarks of or used under license from or with permission of Rogers Communications Inc. or an affiliate. ®BlackBerry and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world, used under license from Research In Motion Limited. TMGoogle and the Google logo are trademarks of or used under license or with permission of Google Inc. The HTC logo and HTC Magic are trademarks of High Tech Computer Corporation used under license or with permission. eBay is a trademark of eBay Inc., used with permission. All other brand names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2009 Rogers Wireless.

Woman arrested for threatening Michelle Obama

HAWAII A woman accused of telling the U.S. Secret Service she would "blow away" Michelle Obama was in federal custody yesterday as the Obama family planned to travel to Hawaii.

Kristy Lee Roshia, 35, was charged with threatening a family member of the president and assaulting a federal agent after being arrested Saturday less than two miles from the Kailua home where the Obama family planned to stay during a holiday visit later this week.

Obama

Roshia called the Secret Service's Boston office last month and told a receptionist, "I will kill Michelle Obama" and "I will kill Marines," according to a Secret Service affidavit.

During the same call, she said she would "blow away" Michelle Obama, the document states.

Roshia has a history of leaving rambling messages and sending poems, love letters and photographs of herself to the Secret Service, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit said Roshia acknowledged to Secret Service agents before her arrest that she had threatened Michelle Obama.

It also says Roshia said she knew where Obama would be staying in Hawaii, and the reason she had travelled to Hawaii in September was "to protect Obama." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parliamentarian wants veils ban

FRANCE A French parliamentarian said yesterday he would file legislation to bar Muslim women from wearing veils that hide their faces in public. President Nicolas Sarkozy has said that burqa-like veils are "not welcome" in France, and a parliamentary panel has been gathering information on the subject to release in a nonbinding report expected next month. Lawmaker Jean-Francois Cope said he wants the veil banned not just from public buildings but also in the streets of France. "We want a ban in public areas," Cope said.

Only a tiny minority of Muslim women in France wear the extreme covering.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canon

For those on your *extremely* nice list.

Touch Screen Technology made easy and fun!

Touch Active Screen
3.0" EasyTouch LCD screen offers exceptionally intuitive and user-friendly fingertip controls.

Touch Select & Track
Tap the face you want to focus on and the camera will track your subject.

NEW! 720p HD movies

Touch Scroll
Easily flip between images, start a slideshow and magnify a portion of a picture.

Available in 4 colours:

PowerShot SD980 IS $399.99*

3.0" WIDE | 12.1 MEGA PIXELS | DiG!C 4 | 24-120mm F2.8-5.9 | HD MOVIE

Take the Online Product Tour at www.canon.ca

Features at your fingertips with a **Customizable Control Ring.**

Ask about genuine Canon cases and bags

PowerShot S90 $529.99*

High Sensitivity Sensor & F2.0 Lens
Capture amazingly crisp, bright images even in the lowest lighting situations.

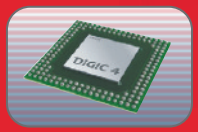
Control Your Camera like the Pros:
- ISO Speed Setting
- Manual Focus
- White Balance Correction
- Nostalgic Mode

10.0 MEGA PIXELS | DiG!C 4 | Dual Anti-Noise System | 28-105mm F2.0-4.9 | RAW | HS SENSOR

Take the Online Product Tour at www.canon.ca

The most advanced PowerShot camera. It's no surprise the **Pros love it!**

PowerShot G11 $599.99*



High Sensitivity Sensor
The combination of DiG!C 4 Processor and High Sensitivity Sensor allows for the lowest noise levels and highest ISO ever in a PowerShot.

Shoot from any Angle
160° Vari-angle 2.8" PureColor Widescreen LCD with the richest colour and highest resolution within the PowerShot family.

Grow Your System with Accessories

10.0 MEGA PIXELS | DiG!C 4 | Dual Anti-Noise System | Low Light | RAW | HS SENSOR

Take the Online Product Tour at www.canon.ca

*Actual prices are determined by individual retailers and may vary. Specifications and availability subject to change without notice. Viewscreens are simulated. All products are sold separately unless otherwise indicated. Canon, PowerShot and DiG!C are registered trade-marks of Canon Inc. © 2009 Canon Canada Inc.

Visit **www.canon.ca** to find a Canon dealer near you!

Sears
BOXING DAY PRICES ON NOW
New gift ideas. Every day. All holiday season long.
Dec. 23 Open 8 a.m. Dec. 24 Open 7 a.m.
2 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!
60% off
*All women's & men's reg.-priced gold jewellery
Plus,
Today only!
Wed., Dec. 23
35% off
*All reg.-priced national brand watches
Choose from Casio®, Timex®, Caravelle® by Bulova, Seiko® brands & more
Plus, until Jan. 1
25% off
All reg.-priced Lands' End fashions & accessories
Where available.
Offer ends Fri., Jan. 1, 2010 (where open)
DEC. 25
Sears.ca Specials
We're open online Christmas Day!
Visit us again on Boxing Day when the deals are different but the savings continue!
*These savings offers exclude items with prices ending in .97 & .88, gold wedding bands and currently advertised items.
NE124G509 © 2009. Sears Canada Inc.

Record arms sales
A government official says Russia will set a post-Soviet record in arms sales this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONIKA SCISLOWSKA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Polish investigators surround one of the suspects in last week's theft of the sign from the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz.

Foreign link cited in Nazi sign theft

A foreigner outside of Poland commissioned the brazen theft of the infamous Auschwitz sign, officials said, and detectives must expand their investigation beyond the country's borders.

In an effort to learn more about the escapade, the investigators held a re-enactment of the theft by the three men who confessed to taking the sign from the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

The sign, which hung over the entrance to the camp, reads "arbeit macht frei," which means "work sets you free" in German.

Based on the evidence gathered since the theft Friday, it appears the crime was commissioned by a "person living outside Poland," and police are seeking help from Interpol and others as they investigate, said Artur Wrona, Krakow's chief prosecutor.

Polish media have reported, without citing any sources, that someone in Sweden could be under suspicion, but Wrona refused to confirm or deny the claims.

In Stockholm, a Swedish police official said the force had not been contacted about any links.

Despite the spectre of an international link to the crime, Wrona said the investigation had so far exposed "glaring negligence" in the security system at the Auschwitz museum, which let the burglars act "undisturbed."

He said they drove to the then-closed museum in a sports car after dark Thursday but found they needed tools to get the sign down. They went to a shop and bought tools, including a wrench, he said.

When the burglars returned, it was just after midnight and there were no guards about as they unbolted one side of the sign and ripped the other off the opposite gate post, officials said.

Police said the sign was cut into three pieces with a saw so it could fit in the getaway car.

Working from tips, police found the damaged pieces of the sign Sunday — hidden under snow in the woods — and arrested five suspects in northern Poland.

Prosecutors said three of the five men have confessed to the crime. All five face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chunnel train service restored

STRANDED Eurostar scrambled to get tens of thousands of passengers home for the holidays as it resumed service of high-speed trains under the English Channel yesterday, four days after a service shutdown caused by snow.

The first train pulled out of Paris's Gare du Nord in the morning, carrying 750 passengers, many of whom had been stranded since the rail link between Britain, France and Belgium was suspended Saturday. Hundreds of others waited in a line stretching across the cavernous train station.

The shutdown, affecting 40,000 people, was blamed on unusually dry, powdery snow that got into the train engines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ch-ch-ch-chat all winter. Amazing phones now under $100.

Palm® Pre™ smartphone

$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan (min. 500MB) on a 2-yr. term[1] ($599.95 no term)

Samsung Galaxy™ smartphone with Google™

$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[1] ($449.95 no term)

Nokia 2730

$29.95 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($119.95 no term)

BlackBerry® Curve™ 8330 smartphone

$0 with a $40 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[3] ($549.95 no term)

LG Rumour2™

$0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($269.95 no term)

Samsung Vice™

$0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($249.95 no term)

BONUS: For a limited time, enjoy $50 off accessories when you purchase any phone from Bell.[4]

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE (662453) • bell.ca

Bell savings just got better

Available at the following Bell stores:

LOWER MAINLAND

ABBOTSFORD
31935 South Fraser Way
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre

BURNABY
Brentwood Town Centre
Kensington Square
Lougheed Mall
Marine Way Market
Metropolis at Metrotown
Metropolis at Metrotown – kiosk

CHILLIWACK
Cottonwood Mall

COQUITLAM
Coquitlam Centre

CRANBROOK
First Pro Cranbrook

DELTA
Scottsdale Centre

DAWSON CREEK
600 – 113th Ave.

FORT ST. JOHN
7920 Alaska Rd.
Totem Mall

LANGLEY
Walnut Gate
Willowbrook Corner
Willowbrook Mall

MAPLE RIDGE
Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER
Queensborough Landing

PITT MEADOWS
Meadowtown Centre

RICHMOND
Aberdeen Centre
Richmond Centre
Sands Plaza

SURREY
10362 King George Hwy.
13630 – 72 Ave.
8683 – 128th St.
Guildford Town Centre
Nordel Crossing
Panorama Village
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

VANCOUVER
567 Seymour St.
698 West Broadway
1008 West Georgia St.
1100 Robson St.
1588 West Broadway
1709 Lonsdale Ave.
2154 West 4th
Bentall Centre
Capilano Mall
Chinatown Plaza
Lynn Valley
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
Park Royal N.
Park Royal S.

OKANAGAN

CASTELGAR
635 Columbia Ave.

KAMLOOPS
Aberdeen Mall
Inside Real Canadian Superstore
Lansdowne Village

KELOWNA
Dilworth Shopping Centre
Orchard Park Shopping Centre

PENTICTON
Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
Pine Centre

QUESNEL
259 Reid St.

VERNON
Village Green Mall

WILLIAMS LAKE
Boitanio Mall

VANCOUVER ISLAND

NANAIMO
Country Club Centre
Woodgrove Centre

VICTORIA
Bay Centre
Hillside Shopping Centre
Mayfair Shopping Centre
Westshore Town Centre

Offer ends December 31, 2009. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility (EVDO/HSPA/HSPA+) where technology permits. HSPA/HSPA+ not available everywhere. One-time device activation ($35) fee applies. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. **(1)** With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $50/mo. You must keep a min. $50/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. **(2)** With new activation on a post-paid voice plan. **(3)** With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $40/mo. You must keep a min. $40/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. **(4)** With a new activation on a 3-yr. term on a post-paid voice plan. Rebate applies in-store before taxes on accessories. Palm and Pre are among the trademarks or registered trademarks owned by or licensed to Palm, Inc. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Nokia is a registered trademark of Nokia Corporation. Rumour2 is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc. Samsung Galaxy and Samsung Vice are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Google and Android are trademarks of Google, Inc.

VANCOUVER
Publisher, Maryse Lalonde
Managing Editor, Fernando Carneiro
Distribution Mgr, George Acimovic

METRO CANADA
Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Assoc Managing Editor, Tarin Elbert
Enter/Lifestyle Editor, Dean Lisk
Asst Managing Editor, Amber Shortt
Art Director, Laila Hakim
National Sales Director, Peter Bartrem
Interactive/Mrktng Director, Jodi Brown

Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

METRO CANADA: TORONTO | OTTAWA | MONTREAL | HALIFAX | EDMONTON | CALGARY | VANCOUVER

Comment

Jim and the magic ministry

Flaherty stuck with maintaining financial recovery illusion

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

You've got to feel sorry for Jim Flaherty, who's in charge of the Ministry of Magic these days.

Oops, sorry. That's the Finance Ministry. Although Flaherty probably wonders if Harry Potter would be better suited to the job.

Take the "recovery," for instance.

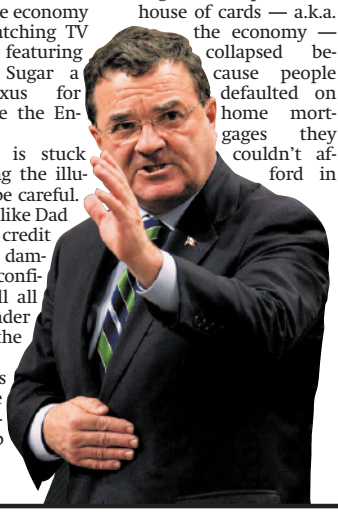
If that's not magic, I don't know what is. Nothing has really happened since 2008, when we woke up with the mother of all hangovers, induced by a decade-long orgy of spending money we haven't got.

All at once, half the value we assumed was in our homes and businesses simply disappeared. We scurried under our beds and refused to come out. Until now — even though nothing has changed. Nonetheless, magicians, er, economists now declare the recession over, thanks to Joe Consumer, back spending money he hasn't got.

I'm not making this up. Less than a year after the world's leaders pumped all their spare cash into the banks to keep the economy afloat, we're watching TV commercials featuring Daddy buying Sugar a brand-new Lexus for Christmas, while the Envys look on.

And Flaherty is stuck with maintaining the illusion. He has to be careful. If he's too much like Dad ranting about credit card bills, he'll damage "consumer confidence" and we'll all crawl back under the bed, ending the "recovery."

The trance is not entire. The consumer confidence index is up 3.7 in December — we're confident in our short-term finances and employment status, but we're still cautious about the future. Still, we're 26.2 per cent more confident (deluded?) than we were at this time last year.



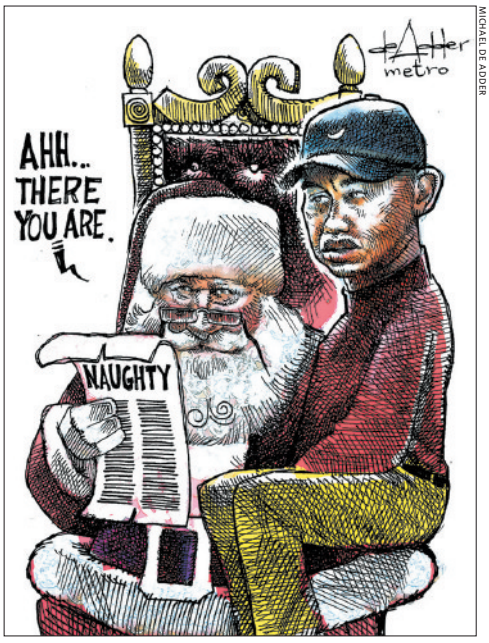
Jim Flaherty

Ever the responsible magician, Flaherty is trying to manage the spell. The house of cards — a.k.a. the economy — collapsed because people defaulted on home mortgages they couldn't afford in the first place. So if interest rates go up — and up they must go if we don't want runaway inflation (bad magic) — people who depend on cheap money will go down and the "recovery" will be over. Flaherty says he will make it tougher to walk into a mortgage: Requiring an actual cash down payment or limiting the term of the mortgage. What? No more 30-year mortgages at two per cent?

Predictably, some magicians worry Flaherty will put a damper on the economy, which, it appears, is fuelled 100 per cent by pixie dust. So, as you sit by the warmth of the fire this holiday season, bolstering your confidence with a bowl of punch, you might spare a moment of sympathy for Tiny Jim.

And it's a good time to count our blessings while we still can — we're OK — at least until the visit of Christmas Yet to Come.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Online chatter

Follow Metro on Twitter for news updates and more: @metrovancouver

Asked on Twitter: What's your favourite holiday tradition?

VANCOUVER

@kirksettle definitely the enormous family get-togethers that are almost unreasonably big, like three turkeys for 40 people every x-mas.

@chatkiller hmm ... It would have to be putting up the Christmas tree with my folks, along with putting up lights and ornaments.

@gayvancouver Our fave holiday tradition is our annual Santa photo. Two grown men on Santa's knee certainly livens things up in the mall!

TORONTO

@bodsworth Unwrapping new pajamas every Christmas Eve, so come Christmas morning we look fresh and clean for gift giving pics!

HALIFAX

@raine_angel my family has a special advent tree decorated with special ornaments and a chain link. Every day we remove one link!

CALGARY

@jess4002 we love listening and singing along to christmas music all throughout december! even the terrible christmas songs.

EDMONTON

@lukesheds being passive aggressive toward relatives?

@M4TTW4RD ski-doing and skating with my entire family at long island lake on boxing day. :D

Word on the street: What's your favourite holiday tradition?

Ronald Hui
Delta

A: Turkey and, of course, the rest of the dinner. It's great to get the family together and see people you don't see all year and eat. And the presents — the presents are great.

Katie Nelson
Surrey

A: Singing Christmas carols in front of the tree. My family sings carols every year. We're not allowed to open our presents until we've sung them all.

Ian Mauer
Vancouver

A: Stuffing stockings and hanging them up above the fire. It's great to do that every year. I remember when I was a kid, me and my brothers would look forward to it. We had the same stockings for years.

Victoria Pianarosa
Bedford, N.S.

A: Making agnolotti with my in-laws. It's a fun thing that everyone in the family participates in. We cut it up and make the filling — then we eat them all. It usually takes a whole afternoon.

David Sadai
Toronto

A: My girlfriend's parents still put "from Santa Claus" on the gifts ... and they're already under the tree.

Ashley Young
Edmonton

A: My favourite tradition would be Christmas baking before Christmas and then on Christmas Day, the whole process of gift opening and stockings. Stockings are my favourite.

We Know What You're Thinking

88% The number of Canadians who have a plan on how to get home safely when going out to an activity where they might be drinking alcohol.

IPSOS REID

Tell us your views by email to vancouverletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @vancouvermetro

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Bank of Nova Scotia sets up in Dubai

The Bank of Nova Scotia said yesterday it has been approved to set up independent operations in Dubai's financial district, making it the first Canadian bank to do so. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Word judgment upheld

Jury found Microsoft application infringed on patent

A U.S. federal appeals court has upheld a $290-million US judgment against Microsoft Corp. in a patent case launched by Canada-based i4i Inc.

The ruling also includes an injunction, set to go into effect Jan. 11, that would prevent the sale of at least some versions of Microsoft's popular Word word processing software.

The decision was on an appeal Microsoft launched against a verdict returned by a Texas jury in favour of i4i.

The jury found recent versions of Microsoft Word infringed on a software patent. Michel Vulpe, founder and co-inventor of i4i, said in a statement that the company is pleased with the decision, calling it "an important step in protecting the property rights of small inventors."

i4i chairman Loudon Owen called the decision a "vindication for i4i and a war cry for talented inventors whose patents are infringed."

"The same guts and integrity that are needed to invent and go against the herd, are at the heart of success in patent litigation against a behemoth like Microsoft," Owen said in a statement.

Kevin Kutz, Microsoft's director of public affairs, said the software company is "moving quickly to comply with the injunction."

Kutz said the injunction "applies only to copies of Microsoft Word 2007 and Microsoft Office 2007 sold in the U.S. on or after the injunction date of Jan. 11, 2010."

"Copies of these products sold before this date are not affected," he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

A sales boom has shot China past the U.S. as the world's largest auto market, with plenty of potential customers still car-less. Scan this barcode for the full story.

NYSE Taking a walk on the Dark Side

HENNY RAY ABRAMS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Star Wars icon Darth Vader is escorted by storm troopers while touring the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday in New York. To celebrate the lasting appeal of the Star Wars saga, Lucasfilm Ltd. executives and the Star Wars characters visited the exchange and rang the opening bell.

In brief

EMPLOYMENT Statistics Canada says the number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in October edged down 0.5 per cent to 809,600. That was still 61.8 per cent, or 309,300 more than drew benefits in October 2008. Over the year, the number of people drawing benefits rose in every province and territory. B.C. had the third largest increase, with 52,500 more recipients. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auto industry poised to turn

ECONOMY The beleaguered auto industry is poised for a slow but steady turnaround in 2010 that will usher in an era of profitability and job growth after years of declines, according to a new industry forecast.

The Conference Board of Canada, a private-sector economic forecaster, said the auto sector isn't necessarily out of trouble but there are encouraging signs that profits will return in 2010 and strengthen each year through to at least 2014.

"The Canadian auto industry appears to have turned a corner in the second half of 2009 and is expected to return to profitability in 2010," economist Sabrina Browarski wrote in the report.

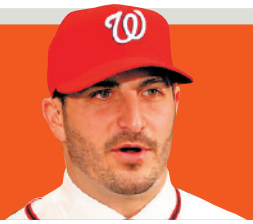
THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOXING DAYS
Comwave Starts Boxing Day Early and Knocks Out the Competition!!!
HOME PHONE LINES
Bell
BELL HOME PHONE CHOICE
$68.79/MONTH
VOICEMAIL
CALL DISPLAY
CALL WAITING
CALL RETURN
THREE WAY CALLING
CALL FORWARDING
INCLUDES
UNLIMITED CALLING TO CANADA & U.S.A.
Rogers
ROGERS EXTRA VALUE PLAN
$41.31/MONTH
VOICEMAIL
CALL DISPLAY
CALL WAITING
CALL RETURN
THREE WAY CALLING
CALL FORWARDING
INCLUDES
1000 MINUTES TO CANADA & U.S.A.
comwave
$29.95/MONTH
VOICEMAIL
CALL DISPLAY
CALL WAITING
CALL RETURN
THREE WAY CALLING
CALL FORWARDING
AND MUCH MORE!
INCLUDES
UNLIMITED CALLING TO CANADA & U.S.A.
BONUS : 6 Months FREE!!
ALL FEATURES FREE!
ENHANCED
$14.95/MONTH
UNLIMITED LOCAL CALLING
ALL FEATURES FREE
UNLIMITED CANADA
$19.95/MONTH
UNLIMITED CALLING TO CANADA
ALL FEATURES FREE
ONE-RATE
$29.95/MONTH
UNLIMITED CALLING TO CANADA & U.S.A.
ALL FEATURES FREE
GLOBAL
$39.95/MONTH
UNLIMITED CALLING TO 25 COUNTRIES!
ALL FEATURES FREE
BOXING DAYS
LIMITED TIME OFFER
6 MONTHS FREE!
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!
KEEP YOUR EXISTING PHONE NUMBER!
comwave 1-866-543-5122
www.comwave.ca
WHILE COMWAVE STRIVES FOR ACCURACY IN OUR ADVERTISING, COMWAVE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CORRECT ANY ERROR IN PRICING OR INFORMATION AT ANY TIME. HOME PHONE LINES: VoIP 911 HAS CERTAIN LIMITATIONS VERSUS TRADITIONAL 911 THE GLOBAL THE RATES OF $41.31/MONTH AND $68.79/MONTH ARE AS ADVERTISED ON HTTP://WWW.HOMEPHONECHALLENGE.CA ON OCT. 5 2009. HOME PHONE PLAN IS LIMITED TO 3000 MINUTES PER MONTH. EXCESS MINUTES USED WILL BE BILLED AT 3.99 CENTS PER MINUTE. UNLIMITED CANADA PLAN DOES NOT INCLUDE CALLS TO THE YUKON, NUNAVUT OR N.W.T. ONE RATE PLAN DOES NOT INCLUDE CALLS TO THE YUKON, NUNAVUT, N.W.T, HAWAII OR ALASKA. THE RATES ARE BASED ON A 3 YEAR TERM. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED WITHIN 90 DAYS. IF YOU ARE NOT 100% SATISFIED, YOU MAY CANCEL YOUR HOME PHONE SERVICE NO QUESTIONS ASKED. RATE GUARANTEE IS BASED ON COMPETITORS LOWEST ADVERTISED RATE FOR LIKE SERVICES. THE 6 MONTHS FREE PROMOTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE GLOBAL HOME PHONE PLAN.LIMITED TO 3000 MINUTES PER MONTH. THE RATES ARE BASED ON A 3 YEAR TERM. 6 MONTHS FREE - YOU GET 3 MONTHS FREE IMMEDIATELY UPON ACTIVATION OF THE SERVICE. GET AN ADDITIONAL 3 MONTHS FREE IF YOU TRANSFER YOUR EXISTING HOME PHONE LINE TO COMWAVE WITHIN THE FIRST 3 MONTHS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY, SEE WWW.COMWAVE.NET FOR DETAILS

Senators slash ticket prices

The Ottawa Senators are slashing ticket prices between 20 and 30 per cent for a nine-game stretch starting next month. Beginning Jan. 1, the NHL club will offer a 20 per cent reduction in single-game ticket prices for eight contests and a 30 per cent cut for another. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Marquis ready to lead

Jason Marquis says he's ready to fill the role of veteran leader for a young Washington Nationals pitching staff. The free-agent right-hander signed a $15-million US, two-year contract yesterday. He joins a staff whose rotation at times last season consisted of second-year player John Lannan and four rookies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Hundreds mourn Bengals' Henry at funeral

Chris Henry's fiancée wept as she spoke about the late Cincinnati Bengals receiver yesterday, saying that while she often got credit for steering him clear of trouble, he changed her life as well.

Henry, 26, was killed after he fell out of the bed of a pickup truck driven by his fiancée, Loleini Tonga, during what police called a domestic dispute. Police are investigating, but no charges have been filed.

Tonga, wearing large sunglasses, paused to gather herself repeatedly as she spoke to hundreds of mourners at his funeral — including Henry's teammates — who filled the grandstands of a suburban New Orleans events centre.

PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Goodell hugs Chad Ochocinco yesterday at Chris Henry's funeral.

Tonga professed eternal love for Henry and promised to raise their children the way he would want.

"Can't nobody know the way I'm feeling right now. No one can explain the relationship that me and Chris had. In six years of knowing each other — through hard times, good times — we loved each other very much," she said. "People say I helped change his life. No. He changed mine."

Mourners clapped briefly as Tonga slowly made her way back to her front row seat.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, Bengals players, coaches and members of the front office, as well as other NFL players including New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush, were among those who attendance.

Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer and head coach Marvin Lewis delivered eulogies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks cool hot Predators

NHL

Predators 1 Canucks 4

AT

Twin brothers Daniel and Henrik Sedin each scored a goal and added two assists as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Nashville Predators 4-1 yesterday night.

Steve Bernier and Sami Salo also scored for the Canucks (21-16-0) as they moved into sole possession of eighth place in the Western Conference.

It was only their second victory in nine meetings with Central Division teams this season. Rebounding from a loss to St. Louis, they continued their trend of beating top clubs after losing to teams who are at or near the bottom of the standings.

The Predators (22-12-3), who rank among the best in the Western Conference after years of late-season struggles to make the playoffs, saw their four-game road winning streak come to an end.

Nashville had been one of the NHL's hottest scoring clubs, but Patric Hornqvist was the lone Predator to beat Vancouver goaltender Roberto Luongo, who made 20 saves while coming within five-and-a-half minutes of a shutout.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver's Mason Raymond, left, jumps to avoid the puck as he screens Nashville's Dan Ellis during last night's action.

The Predators lost for only the second time in eight games as their suddenly potent offence dried up.

The Canucks outshot the Predators 36-21. Vancouver scored on one of three power plays while Nashville was blanked on two.

After a scoreless first period, the Canucks dominated the second, built a 2-0 lead following 40 minutes, and never looked back.

Canucks defenceman Alex Edler played his first game since suffering a shoulder injury Dec. 8 in Nashville.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for the most recent Sports updates on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Visually impaired skier aims for Olympics

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

"It's the best race I could lay down today and whatever happens, happens."
Brian McKeever

Visually impaired cross-country skier Brian McKeever is a step closer to becoming the first winter athlete to compete in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 30-year-old from Canmore won an able-bodied 50-kilometre Noram race yesterday, a result he needed to be eligible for the Olympic team.

But the number of spots on Canada's Olympic roster hasn't been confirmed and it will be up to Cross Country Canada to decide if McKeever will race the 50K in Whistler in February.

"It's the best race I could lay down today and whatever happens, happens," McKeever said. "That's all you can ask, to have the best race on the day when it matters."

He won in two hours 21 minutes 8.5 seconds. Brent McMurtry of Calgary was second in 2:22:20.9 and Kevin Sandau of Calgary was third in 2:22:40.4.

The national cross-country ski federation will name its complete Olympic cross-country team in January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRE BOXING WEEK SALE
BIG BONUS HOLIDAY EVENT
$1000 PREPAID MasterCard® CARD*
MITSUBISHI MOTORS Drive@earth
FREE LIFETIME OIL CHANGE△ + $500 UP TO WORTH OF ACCESSORIES△
10 YEAR 160,000 km POWERTRAIN LTD WARRANTY
BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD
2010 OUTLANDER
2009 LANCER SE
2009 LANCER SPORTBACK
0% PURCHASE FINANCING ON SELECTED 2010 & REMAINING 09 MODELS
NEWTYPE RICHMOND MITSUBISHI
9200 Bridgeport Road, (across from Costco)
604-231-9200 • newtypemitsubishi.com
Smart customers always read the fine print. † For all the purchase financing offers, customers must sign contract and take delivery from dealer by January 4, 2010. Purchase financing of 0% APR available through Bank of Nova Scotia & Bank of Montreal for up to 48 months on all new 2010 Lancer DE and SE and Galant models (2010 Lancer GTS, Lancer Sportback, Lancer Ralliart, and Lancer Evolution and models excluded) and up to 60 months on all new 2010 Endeavor models. Taxes, insurance, registration, admin and documentation fees, and PPSA not included. All offers available only through participating dealers to qualified retail customers in Canada and are only on approved credit. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Conditions apply. See participating dealers for details. Offers may be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. Offers cannot be combined with any other offer. △Lifetime oil change applies to factory-recommended oil changes for as long as you own your vehicle. Accessories discount applies to parts and labour purchase. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Conditions apply. See participating dealers for details. Cards are issued by Citibank, Canada pursuant to a license from MasterCard International Incorporated and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere theMasterCard cards are accepted. MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. *Rebate comes in the form of a prepaid MasterCard card. Rebate is available on all new 2010 Lancer DE and SE and Galant models (2010 Lancer GTS, Lancer Sportback, Lancer Ralliart, and Lancer Evolution and models excluded) and up to 60 months on all new 2010 Endeavor models. Taxes, insurance, registration, admin and documentation fees, and PPSA not included. All offers available only through participating dealers to qualified retail customers in Canada and are only on approved credit. Deal

SALE
ends December 31, 2009

Smartphones from $0.*
You won't believe your eyes.

Nokia E71
NEW. Red and black, only from TELUS.

$0* 3 year term | $329.99 No term
SAVE $329.99

BlackBerry® Storm™ 9530

$0* 3 year term | $599.99 No term
SAVE $599.99

HTC Hero™
NEW. Only from TELUS. Also available in black.

$49.99* 3 year term | $499.99 No term
SAVE $450

BlackBerry® Tour™ 9630

$49.99* 3 year term | $549.99 No term
SAVE $500

- With our new Clear Choice™ Plans, there is no system access fee
- Our 3G+ smartphones run on Canada's largest 3G+ network†

TELUS
the future is friendly®

For more details on these great offers, visit your TELUS authorized dealer or retailer, visit telusmobility.com or call 1-866-264-2966.

FUTURE SHOP BEST BUY LONDON DRUGS Visions

Offers available until December 31, 2009. Phone availability and prices may vary. Prices are subject to change without notice. TELUS reserves the right to modify eligible rate plans with this offer at any time without advance notice. *Offer available to new activations or renewals on a 3 year term with a smartphone voice and data rate plan of $50 or greater, or on a BlackBerry Social or BlackBerry Email & IM rate plan. Regular price of a Nokia E71 on a 3 year term is $29.99. Regular price of a BlackBerry Storm on a 3 year term is $99.99. Regular price of the HTC Hero on a 3 year term is $99.99. Regular price of a BlackBerry Tour on a 3 year term is $149.99. †For HSPA/HSPA+ geographic coverage and population covered as of December 2009. TELUS, the TELUS logo, the future is friendly and Clear Choice are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. BlackBerry, RIM, Research In Motion and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Nokia, Nokia Connecting People and Ovi Maps are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. Twitter is a trademark of Twitter, Inc. in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2009 TELUS.

TELUS AUTHORIZED DEALERS

LOWER MAINLAND

Vancouver
551 Robson St.
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
2163 West 4th Ave.
5720 East Blvd.
689 Thurlow St.
925 West Georgia St.
1855 Burrard St.
3121 West Broadway
2748 Rupert St.
525 Seymour St.
625 Howe St.
950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
3490 Kingsway
2338 Cambie St.

Burnaby
Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
3823 Henning Dr.
3430 Brighton Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
3278 Westwood St.
3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2988 Glen Dr.
1071 Austin Ave.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1801 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Richmond
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
12571 Bridgeport Rd.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre North/South

Whistler
7009 Nesters Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.

Blue Jays close to trading for Morrow

The Toronto Blue Jays are on the verge of completing their second trade under new general manager Alex Anthopoulos, acquiring pitcher Brandon Morrow from the Seattle Mariners for reliever Brandon League and a prospect. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skier aims to show Jamaica is no joke in winter sports

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Some might say he's Usain Bolt on skis. Not surprisingly, though, when Errol Kerr tells people he's a member of the Jamaican Winter Olympic team, most pull out the bobsled one-liners.

RICH FEDRONCELLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Errol Kerr, who will represent Jamaica in the Vancouver Olympics, is seen after a practice at his home in Truckee, Calif. Kerr wants to win the Caribbean's first winter Olympic medal.

"When people hear of a Jamaican skier, they expect dreads hanging out the back of my helmet and a smoke stream following me down the mountain," Kerr said.

This is no joke, though.

Less than two years since Bolt brought world records and world renown to the island nation with his sprinting, Jamaica's latest winter star is hoping to put his country on the map in the new Olympic sport of skicross.

"It's more than just a country," Kerr said. "It's in my blood, in my DNA."

Born to an American mother and Jamaican father, Kerr grew up a dual citizen between Lake Tahoe in California, where he moved with his mother as a child, and Westmoreland in Jamaica.

He has felt most at home on the slopes since he was a kid watching a ski race on TV.

He rolls with the jokes, most of which inevitably draw comparisons to the Jamaica bobsled team, a fan favourite in the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary that inspired the comedy movie Cool Runnings.

But while the bobsled team was initially a novelty, Kerr enters the Vancouver Olympics — his first — as a serious contender.

The hybrid style of skicross draws on Kerr's extensive background in Alpine skiing. It also makes good use of the rougher edge he picked up in motocross and BMX, said American Jonny Moseley, an Olympic gold medallist.

"Errol's got a good shot at the Olympics," Moseley said. "He's cut out for the sport." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yankees trade Cabrera to Braves for Vazquez

BASEBALL Pitcher Javier Vazquez was traded back to the Yankees by the Atlanta Braves yesterday for outfielder Melky Cabrera, a move that pushed New York's payroll for next season to more than $200 million US.

New York also got left-hander Boone Logan as part of the deal, and the Braves obtained a pair of pitching prospects, left-hander Mike Dunn and right-hander Arodys Vizcaino, along with about $500,000.

"I didn't want to leave my first time out," Vazquez said. "I'm glad to be back."

The trade leaves New York with an opening in left field, allowing the Yankees to perhaps pursue Mark DeRosa. The club does not appear interested in re-signing Johnny Damon or going after free agents Matt Holliday and Jason Bay of Trail., B.C.

Atlanta had six starting pitchers and felt free to deal Vazquez, who was 14-10 for the Yankees in 2004. He started 10-5 with a 3.56 ERA that year and made his only all-star team, but faded to a 4-5 record and 6.92 ERA after the break, when he was bothered by an aching shoulder.

"The second half of '04, which was poor, cannot erase the long success he's had as a major league pitcher," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

His first stint in New York ended miserably, when he relieved Kevin Brown trailing 2-0 in Game 7 of the AL championship series against Boston and allowed a first-pitch grand slam to Damon, then gave up a two-run homer to Damon in the fourth.

"Hopefully, I can erase those memories," Vazquez said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$64M

New York's top four starting pitchers — CC Sabathia, A.J. Burnett, Andy Pettitte and Javier Vazquez — will combine for $64 million in payroll next season. That's more than four teams paid their entire rosters last season.

Sports in brief

WORLD JUNIORS Taylor Hall scored his second goal in as many games and Martin Jones stopped all 17 shots he faced to lead Canada to a 3-0 win over Finland in a world junior exhibition game yesterday. Team Canada will return to Regina for its third and final pre-competition game against the Czech Republic tonight before opening the world junior tournament on Dec. 26 against Latvia in Saskatoon.

RUGBY Veterans Leslie Cripps, Gillian Florence and Heather Jaques will lead the Canadian women's rugby team in a pair of Test matches against the U.S. on Jan. 12 and 16 in Lakeland, Fla. The tour is part of the Canadian women's preparations for the 2010 World Cup, set for Aug. 20 to Sept. 5 in England.

BLUE BOMBERS The Winnipeg Blue Bombers released veteran middle linebacker Barrin Simpson yesterday. Simpson spent four seasons in Winnipeg, appearing in 52 regular-season games, three playoff contests and a Grey Cup.

BILLS Buffalo Bills cornerback Terrence McGee has been placed on injured reserve because of a rotator cuff injury. The team also bolstered its banged-up quarterback ranks by re-signing former third-stringer Gibran Hamdan. The moves were announced yesterday as Buffalo prepares to play at Atlanta this weekend.

BOXING The megafight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been thrown into jeopardy. Mayweather's camp is demanding the fighters submit to Olympic-type drug testing in the weeks leading up to the bout.

SOCCER Canada will play an international soccer friendly in Jamaica on Jan. 31. The game will take place in Kingston at the National Soccer Stadium. Canada and Jamaica most recently faced met for the opening match of the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup. Canada won 1-0.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 112 Minnesota 87
Boston 103 Indiana 94
Charlotte 88 Detroit 76
Memphis 121 Golden State 108
New York 88 Chicago 81
Washington 105 Philadelphia 98
Portland 85 Dallas 81
Houston 108 L.A. Clippers 99
L.A. Lakers 111 Oklahoma City 108

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

San Jose 3 Chicago 2
Anaheim 4 at Colorado 2
VANCOUVER 4 Nashville 1

MORE GO. LESS DOUGH.

2009 PONTIAC G5

BEST IN CLASS HIGHWAY FUEL EFFICIENCY (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS)▶

35/52 mpg • 8.0/5.4 L/100 km (City/Hwy)▲

0%† FOR 72 MONTHS†

PLUS $1,000◀ HOLIDAY BONUS

☆☆☆☆☆
HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING△

2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE

50 MPG ON THE HIGHWAY▲
BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA◊

36/50 mpg • 7.9/5.7 L/100 km (City/Hwy)▲

0%† FOR 60 MONTHS†

PLUS $1,000◀ HOLIDAY BONUS

☆☆☆☆☆
HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING△

2009 PONTIAC VIBE

BEST NEW SMALL CAR OVER $18,000
AWARDED BY **AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

36/46 mpg • 7.8/6.2 L/100 km (City/Hwy)▲

2.9%† FOR 72 MONTHS†

PLUS $1,000◀ HOLIDAY BONUS

HOLIDAY GIFT

BCPONTIACDEALERS.CA

ask about
Canada's Best Coverage◊

STUDENT BONUS◊ GM pays the first 2 monthly payments◊

PONTIAC
BUICK
GMC

NOW AT YOUR BC PONTIAC BUICK GMC DEALERS. bcpontiacdealers.ca 1-800-GM-DRIVE. Pontiac, Buick and GMC are brands of General Motors of Canada. ©General Motors of Canada is a National Partner of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. TM© 2007. VANOC. Used under License. †Purchase financing available on select 2009 and 2010 models on approved GMAC credit only. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 60 months with $0 down, the monthly payment is $166.67. Cost of borrowing is $0. Offers with 0% financing are unconditional interest free. Freight included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes not included. Offers apply to the purchase of 2009/2010 new or demonstrator models, dealer order or trade may be necessary, and applies only to qualified retail customers in BC/Yukon. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your participating GM dealers for conditions and details. ▲▶◀Based on 2009 ratings. Based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada testing methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. 2009 ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on how you drive and maintain your vehicle, driving conditions and your vehicle's options. ◊Based on GM segmentation for the Compact Car – Regular segment. ◊◊Based on GM segmentation for the Small Car – Regular segment. ◊◊◊Based on GM segmentation for the Compact Car – Regular segment. ◊◊◊◊Based on GM segmentation for the Small Car – Regular segment. ◊◊◊◊◊Based on GM segmentation for the Small Car – Regular segment. ☆☆☆☆☆ 2009 5-Star Government Frontal Crash Safety Ratings for driver and front passenger in the frontal crash test. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ▶Applies to 2009 G5 XFE (2A3769). Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings and GM vehicle segmentation for the Compact Car – Regular segment. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. △Warranty based on 5 years or 160,000 km, whichever comes first. Excludes medium duty trucks. See Dealer for conditions and details. ¥ GMCL will pay the first two months' GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only; paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). Offer applicable to equal monthly payment finance agreements with GMAC and subject to GMAC credit approval. ◊License, insurance, registration and administration fees not included and may be payable upon signing. Program not available to recipients of any previous GM student/graduate offer. Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details.

Warning issued for child seat car carriers

A product advisory notice has been issued in Canada for certain Dorel infant car seats, which may pose a potential safety hazard due to a handle that may loosen and come off when the seat is used as an infant carrier. **CANADIANDRIVER.COM**

Metro Drive

Saab sale fails

Saab Automobile AB will be closed down, following an announcement by General Motors that its sale to Spyker Cars could not be completed.

CANADIANDRIVER.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Nissan Leaf fun, agile ride

MICHAEL GOETZ
for Metro Canada

You only have one chance to make a first impression.

Show up for a job interview, for a coveted position in the poultry industry, with untrimmed nose hair and a "Meat is Murder" t-shirt, and well, your goose will be cooked, so to speak.

The ramifications of an unsatisfactory first impression weren't lost on the brain trust at Nissan.

That first drive, that first ownership experience with all-electric Nissan Leaf, has to be completely satisfactory, or the chances of moving electric vehicles to the mainstream will be stopped in its tracks, says Ian Forsythe, a product specialist at Nissan Canada. So we have an all-electric vehicle that aims to look and drive pretty close to how consumers would expect a five-passenger, front-drive family sedan to look and drive.

I had a chance to check if Nissan managed its objective, via a brief fling in a Leaf prototype in a parking lot in Vancouver. Yes, a pylon course.

I took two laps, for a combined seat time of about one minute and 37 seconds. Not quite like a lap around the famed Nurburgring, but enough to confirm that Leaf is fun to drive and will not unnerve anybody.

It handles very much like every other front-drive sedan — agile, but with just the right amount of dialed-in understeer to make the vehicle predictable and safe.

It's even hard to detect its regenerative braking system. Other electric vehicles and hybrids have more aggressive regenerative systems, which means they essentially "brake" the vehicle anytime you're off the "gas," to convert every little bit of kinetic energy to electricity.

The Leaf coasts more like a conventional car.

The prototype we drove had Versa bodywork over its Leaf electric platform. A full-blown Leaf was available for viewing, and you can see that, while it is different, it's not scary different. It doesn't need a front radiator grille or a tailpipe, so it has neither.

The plug-in "socket" is behind a flap on its front hood, which is short and low for aerodynamic purposes.

The one electric motor is fitted up front, but very low in the body, as are the batteries.

Other EVs and hybrids use cylinder-shaped batteries, but the lithium-ion battery pack in the Leaf is formed in thin, laminated sheets. This keeps the batteries cool, which is so necessary for longevity and reliability.

So maybe you want one? Well you can't have one. At least not until the early fall of 2011.

Why the wait? It's back to that first impression thing. Nissan and other EV makers need infrastructure to develop in some Canadian cities, so owners actually have places to recharge their vehicles, other than at their homes.

2010 Nissan Leaf

Type: 5-door hatchback
Powertrain: 80 kilowatt AC electric motor, laminated lithium-ion battery pack (the equivalent of about 106 hp and 207 lb-ft of torque)
Charging times: About 8 hours on 220-volt current
Range: 160 km per full charge
Top Speed: Over 140 km/h

Highlights

- Zero Emissions
- Not available until late 2011
- Vancouver gets first Canadian units

Legendary road handling. German-engineered performance.
A rush of adrenalin. And a great deal for the holidays. Das included.

2010 Tiguan
Well-equipped starting from $29,455*
Model shown $35,505

2010 new Golf 3-door
Well-equipped starting from $21,540*
Model shown $25,265

2010 new Golf 5-door
Well-equipped starting from $22,540*
Model shown $27,840

2010 Golf City
Well-equipped starting from $16,665*
Model shown $18,701

0% purchase financing up to 36 months*

Raising the standard for standard features.
The Tiguan, our robust compact SUV, the nimble Golf City and the internationally acclaimed new Golf are all part of a Volkswagen line-up that offers reliability, renowned German engineering and an impressive list of standard features, all Das included. See your local dealer or vw.ca for more details.

IIHS Top Safety Pick
2010 Tiguan
(with available ESP** and side impact airbags†)

WORLD CAR OF THE YEAR
WORLD CAR AWARDS
2010 new Golf

12-year / unlimited distance limited warranty against corrosion perforation

Das Auto.

vw.ca

*Base MSRP for a new 2010 Tiguan 2.0L / 3-door new Golf 2.5L / 5-door new Golf 2.5L / Golf City 2.0L with 6-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission is $29,455/$21,540/$22,540/$16,665 including $1,580 freight and PDI for Tiguan and $1,365 freight and PDI for 3-door new Golf / 5-door new Golf / Golf City. License, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may sell for less. Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit. MSRP for a new 2010 Tiguan 2.0L / 3-door new Golf 2.5L / 5-door new Golf 2.5L / Golf City 2.0L with 6-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission (including $1,580 freight and PDI for Tiguan and $1,365 freight and PDI for 3-door new Golf / 5-door new Golf / Golf City) financed at 0% APR up to 36 months equals $818/$598/$626/$463 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $29,455/$21,540/$22,540/$16,665. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and other applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends January 4, 2010 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. 2010 Tiguan 2.0L / 3-door new Golf 2.5L / 5-door new Golf 2.5L / Golf City 2.0L as shown is $35,505/$25,265/$27,840/$18,701 with options and accessories. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. **Volkswagen recommends keeping the ESP on under most driving conditions. †Airbags are supplemental restraints only and will not deploy under all accident scenarios. Always use safety belts and seat children only in the rear seats, using restraint systems appropriate for their size and age. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Tiguan" and "Golf" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" and "Golf City" are trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2009 Volkswagen Canada.

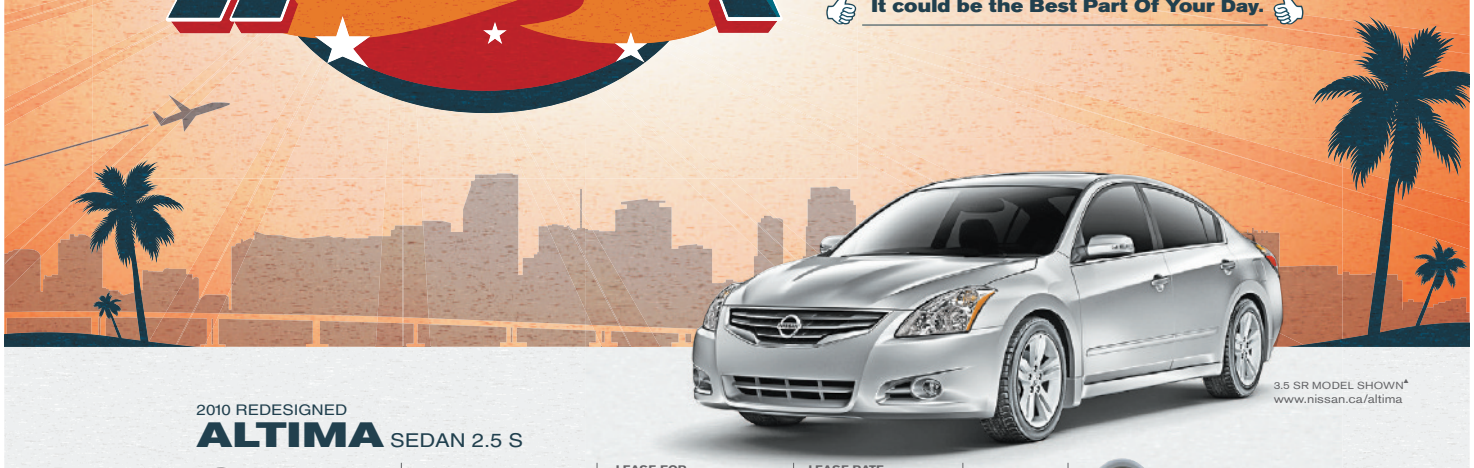
NISSAN

NISSAN HOLIDAY KICK-OFF

GET IN A NEW NISSAN, DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS*,

AND YOU COULD WIN A TRIP TO SUPER BOWL XLIV AND 2010 PRO BOWL IN SOUTH FLORIDA.**

It could be the Best Part Of Your Day.



3.5 SR MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/altima

2010 REDESIGNED ALTIMA SEDAN 2.5 S

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$26,498†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$319†** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **2.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$3,550 DOWN PAYMENT
$18,848 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

"HIGHEST RANKED MIDSIZE CAR IN INITIAL QUALITY IN THE U.S."
- J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES[1]

Nissan Intelligent Key® with Push Button Ignition • Standard ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), and Traction Control System (TCS) • Power windows and door locks

City: 8.7L/100km (32 MPG)
Highway: 6.0L/100km (47 MPG)▲▲

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

SL AWD MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/rogue

2010 ROGUE FWD S

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

2009 REGIONAL VALUE AWARD

5-STAR RATING FOR SIDE-IMPACT CRASH SAFETY[4]

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$26,198†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$309†** PER MONTH | FOR **36** MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **1.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$3,700 DOWN PAYMENT
$14,840 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

Standard Xtronic CVT® • Standard ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), and Traction Control System (TCS) • Power windows and door locks
Winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award[2] • 2009 Rogue is Winner of ALG Residual Value Award - CUV Segment[3]

City: 9.2L/100km (31 MPG)
Highway: 7.3L/100km (39 MPG)▲▲

2010 REDESIGNED SENTRA 2.0

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

2.0 SL MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/sentra

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$16,523†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$199†** PER MONTH FOR 60 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **4.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$1,950 DOWN PAYMENT
$13,905 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

5-STAR RATING FOR FRONT-IMPACT CRASH SAFETY[4]

Standard ABS and Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) • Power door locks • Nissan Advanced Airbag System with 6 airbags

City: 8.4L/100km (34 MPG)
Highway: 6.4L/100km (44 MPG)▲▲

VISIT YOUR LOCAL NISSAN RETAILER TODAY OR NISSAN.CA FOR DETAILS. UP TO **$1000** REBATE▪ | NISSAN GRAD PROGRAM

NISSAN. PROUD SPONSOR OF THE NFL.

*90 days no payments program applies only to purchase finance offers on new 2009 and 2010 Nissan models (except 2009/2010 Altima Hybrid, GT-R, 350Z Roadster and Coupe and 370Z™ Roadster and Coupe) purchased and delivered before January 4th, 2010. Offers available only through Nissan Canada Finance on approved credit. Offer only available on special low rate contracts, and does not apply to Nissan Canada Finance standard rate programs. May not be combined with cash purchase offer. Monthly payments deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After the 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest (if any) monthly from the 90th day over the term of the contract. Offer available on terms up to 72 months. **No purchase necessary. For full rules and how to enter, visit www.nissan.ca/holidaykickoff. Contest closes January 10, 2010. Three (3) Grand Prizes available to be won, each consisting of a trip for two (2) people to 2010 Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIV in South Florida. Approximate retail value of each Grand Prize is $10,000.00 (CDN). Random draw will be held on January 12, 2010 in Mississauga, ON. Must be a resident of Canada (excluding Québec), over age of majority. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Correct answer to mathematical skill testing question required. Limit of one (1) entry per person/household. (c) 2009 NFL Ventures LP. Team names/logos are trademarks of the teams indicated. All other NFL-related trademarks are trademarks of the National Football League. ‡0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on 2010 Altima Sedan (excluding Hybrid), Sentra and Rogue models. Finance Example for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00): $26,498 Selling Price including ($1,400) freight and PDE, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $597.17 per month with $5,000 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $26,498. Up to $84 PPSA, license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. †Lease Examples: $26,498/$26,198/$16,523 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00)/2010 Rogue FWD S (W6RG10 AA00)/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00) at 2.9%/1.9%/4.9% lease rate for a 48/36/60 month term. Monthly payment is $319/$309/$199 including ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) freight and PDE, with $3,550/$3,700/$1,950 down payment, and $0/$0/$0 security deposit. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $18,848/$14,840/$13,905. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. ††Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00), CVT transmission/2010 Rogue FWD S (W6RG10 AA00), CVT transmission/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00), manual transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲Models shown $33,298 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 3.5 SR (T4SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$30,798 Selling Price for a new 2010 Rogue SL AWD (Y6SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$24,423 Selling Price for a new 2010 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG10 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]The Nissan Altima received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. [2]The 2010 Rogue is winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. [3]The 2009 Rogue is winner of ALG Residual Value Award - CUV Segment. [4]Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. Please see www.safercar.gov for up to date information. ▪For a limited time receive up to $1,000 Grad discount available on select models when leasing or financing a new 2009 or 2010 Nissan. See retailer for complete Grad program details.

GM begins loan repayments

General Motors has begun loan repayments to the U.S., Canadian and Ontario governments, with an initial payment of $1.0 billion US to the U.S. Treasury, and $192 million to Export Development Canada. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Best cars of the decade...for now

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

This decade is just about toast. So time for another list — the top ten vehicles of the decade. I wish I had a definitive one to offer you.

Every time I examined the contenders on my list, I would kick some out, and pull others in. It was, and is, in constant flux — like a four-year old on a Count Chocula high.

So consider the following only my "current for the moment" nominations for vehicles with impact and/or panache, that were born between 2000 and 2009…

The third-generation **Toyota Prius** (2004-2009) was the one that cemented it as the hybrid poster boy. The two previous generations had little impact, but this one debuted an iconic profile, pushed hybrids into the public consciousness, and eventually proved that hybrids could stand up to long years of use (and abuse).

The first-generation **Nissan Murano** (2002-2007) was not the first crossover, but definitely the most attractive and appealing one so far produced. It demonstrated a new and very successful mainstream and classy direction for crossovers — and one that had nothing to do with mud. Net result: unibody crossovers rule, body-on-frame SUVs drool.

The **Bugatti Veyron** (2005-2008) was built to impress: 8.0-litre,16-cylinder engine, 1,001 horsepower, and a top speed of 407.9 km/h. It is beyond desirable and virtually unobtainable. It also has a decent stereo, and looks pretty good in blue..

This decade was just another one when **Honda Civic** rocked the house. It is far and away Canada's best selling car of the decade, and for good reason.

The Honda Civic was far and away Canada's best selling car of the decade, and for good reason.

Same thing for the **Ford F-150** — it is easily the top selling truck nameplate of the decade, and continues to stay in front of a very determined group of competitors. This Ford also pioneered the concept that truck interiors, particularly crew cabs, need not be stark places with rock-hard seats and no amenities.

The next two cars on our list — the re-born **Ford Thunderbird** and **Mini** — both pushed the notion that "retro" styling has great appeal and can be done effectively in a modern way. The Mini also proved that buyers are willing to pay a premium for "small," if it's the right kind of "small."

The **2008 Chevrolet Malibu** lead a pack of domestic-built sedans that could legitimately take back the midsize market, which GM, Ford and Chrysler seemed to abdicate to the imports in the previous decades. Based on an Opel platform, Malibu is also a good example of why global design and engineering is now the only way to go..

The **2004 Cadillac CTS** rejuventated Cadillac in a profound way, and is one of the few bold designs to spring from the decade. A new-generation CTS launched in 2009, and its high-output "V" series utilizes a version of the Corvette ZR1 V8, making it one of the fastest sports sedans on the planet.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com

BOXING WEEK SALES EVENT

VISA UP TO $1000 * AND MORE — AS LOW AS 0 %▲ AND MORE — REBATES UP TO $6500

AND EVEN MORE

NO PAYMENTS UNTIL SPRING 2010†

KIA SOUTH VANCOUVER

5 YEAR FREE OIL CHANGE

WITH THE PURCHASE OF A NEW KIA

396 S.W. MARINE DRIVE, VANCOUVER

604-326-6868

New customers only. Must be presented at time of negotiation. One per customer.

STK# VO9250

KIA Sportage 2009 V6 LX

MSRP $28,885
Visa card ($500)
Rebate ($3,200)

$171 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $25,185

PLUS 0%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V09155

KIA Rio 2009 EX

MSRP $15,050
Visa card ($500)
Rebate ($2,850)

$78 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $11,700

PLUS 0%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V09050

KIA Sedona 2009 LX V6

MSRP $30,395
Visa card ($500)
Rebate ($6,250)

$144 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $23,695

PLUS 4.9%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V01112

KIA Soul 2010

MSRP $17,445
Visa card ($300)
Rebate ($200)

$199 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $16,945

PLUS 2.9%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V1060

KIA Forte 2010 EX

MSRP $17,150
Visa card ($300)
Rebate ($700)

$110 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $16,150

PLUS 0%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

KIA SOUTH VANCOUVER

604-326-6868

396 S.W. MARINE DRIVE, VANCOUVER

* UP TO $1,000 VISA ON SELECTED MODELS
▲ 0% FINANCING ON ALL 2009 AND MOST 2010
* REBATES VERY BY MODEL
† NO PAYMENTS ON ALL 2009 AND 2010 MODELS

• 10 minutes from Delta
• 15 minutes from Surrey
• 5 minutes from Richmond
• 5 minutes from Burnaby
• minutes from Downtown

5 Year Warranty We've got you covered.
• 5-YEAR/100,000 KM WORRY-FREE COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY*
• 5-YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
• 5-YEAR/100,000 KM EXTRA CARE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
• NO DEDUCTIBLE CHARGE

KIA MOTORS The Power to Surprise™

$500 Grad Rebate

KIA mobility PROGRAM

KIA INTEGRITY ADVANTAGE

Sportage: $171 bi weekly payment, 3.99% 60/84 bi weekly, plus $495 doc fee, $495 fpf, $130 levies, TP $27137 + res $8540. Rio: $78 bi weekly payment, 2.49% 60/84 bi weekly, plus $495, doc fee $495 fpf, $130 levies, TP $23437 + res $7376.
Sedona: $144 bi weekly payment, 3.99% 60/84 bi weekly, plus 495 doc fee, $495 fpf, $130 levies. TP $22988 + res $7235. Soul: $119 bi weekly payment, 3.9% 60/84 bi weekly, plus 495 doc fee, $495 fpf. $130 levies TP $19023 + res $5974
Forte; $110 bi weekly payment, 2.9% 60/84 bi weekly plus $495 doc fee, $495 fpf, 4130 levies TP $18138 + res $5563

12764969

www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com www.kiavancouver.com

HURRY IT ALL ENDS JANUARY 4TH

THIS SEASON, WE'RE MAKING IT EASY TO GET IN AND DRIVE THE BEST VEHICLES WE'VE EVER BUILT.

GET IN and DRIVE
YEAR-END EVENT

0%** APR UP TO 60 MONTHS PURCHASE FINANCING

$0** DOWN PAYMENT

$0** DUE AT DELIVERY

PLUS

$0** 1ST MONTH PAYMENT

WITH *ON-THE-ROAD PRICING*, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PICK YOUR VEHICLE AND GET IN AND DRIVE.

2010 FORD EDGE SE FWD

PURCHASE FOR ONLY

$27,999*

Includes **$3,000** Delivery Allowance

OR GET

0%** APR FOR 60 MONTHS

Purchase financing on 2010 Edge SEL, Limited & Sport models.

Offers include air tax & freight of $1,500

FOR A LIMITED TIME, RECEIVE A $430 PRICE ADJUSTMENT ON THE CANADIAN COMFORT PACKAGE FOR EDGE SEL THAT INCLUDES A *VISTA ROOF AND HEATED LEATHER SEATS.*

Vista Roof. The two-paneled Vista Roof opens up over 39 percent of the total roof area letting you take in panoramic views while you drive.

Leather Seats. Heated driver and front passenger seats come with six-way power control, all to let you drive in comfort and style.

40MPG - 7.1L/100km - HWY
28MPG - 10.0L/100km - CITY†††

2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT FWD

PURCHASE FOR ONLY

$23,999*

INCLUDES

$3,000

Delivery Allowance.

Offer includes air tax & freight of $1,500

BEST SELLING COMPACT SUV IN CANADA▼

COSTCO WHOLESALE

MEMBERS GET AN **ADDITIONAL**

$1,000 OFF

LIMITED TIME OFFER ON **MOST** 2010 FORD VEHICLES.‡

2010 Fusion | 2010 Escape | 2010 Ranger | 2010 F-150

Introducing The Ford Recycle Your Ride Program

Retire Your Ride — Canada's Vehicle Recycling Program — cleanair FOUNDATION

Recycle your 1995 or older vehicle and receive up to

$3,300‡

of additional incentives over and above those currently offered when combined with the $300 available from the Government of Canada's Retire Your Ride program. Incentives range from $1000 to $3000. Visit ford.ca for details.

35MPG - 8.1L/100km - HWY
24MPG - 11.8L/100km - CITY†††

2010 FORD FLEX SE FWD

PURCHASE FOR ONLY

$29,999*

Includes **$3,000** Delivery Allowance

OR GET

0%** APR FOR 60 MONTHS

Purchase financing on 2010 Flex SEL & Limited models.

Offers include air tax & freight of $1,500

COMES WITH SEATING FOR UP TO 7 PASSENGERS

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO††

HURRY INTO YOUR BC FORD STORE TODAY TO GET IN AND DRIVE AWAY YOUR FAVOURITE FORD.

5 YEAR 100,000 km*** POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

bcford.ca

Ford Drive one.

WISE BUYERS READ LEGAL COPY: Offers available at participating dealers only. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Factory order may be required. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See participating Dealer for details. Offers apply to BC residents only. *Cash purchase a new 2010 Ford Edge SE FWD/Ford Escape XLT FWD with 6-speed automatic transmission/Ford Flex SE FWD for $27,999/$23,999/$29,999 after a delivery allowance of $3,000 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after delivery allowance deducted. All offers on 2010 Ford Edge SE FWD/Ford Escape XLT FWD with 6-speed automatic transmission/Ford Flex SE FWD include air tax & freight of $1,500. All offers exclude license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all other applicable taxes. **The Ford Get In and Drive Year End Event ("Year End Event") is in effect from November 3, 2009 to January 4, 2010 at participating Ford of Canada Dealerships. During the Year End Event one or more combinations of $0 first month's payment, 0% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) purchase financing for up to 60 months, $0 down payment or $0 due at signing will apply to the purchase finance or lease of select new 2010 Ford vehicles. Offers vary by model and not all combinations will apply. Offers are available to customers taking retail incentives and may only be available on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Purchase financing and lease offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, fuel fill charge, insurance, PPSA, registration, administration fees and all other applicable taxes. These offers are subject to vehicle availability and may be cancelled at any time without notice. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Some conditions apply. See your Ford Dealer for complete details. Purchase finance or lease an eligible new 2010 Ford or Lincoln vehicle through Ford Credit between November 3, 2009 and January 4, 2010 and get first monthly payment paid up to a maximum amount of $500/$750/$1,000/$1,250/$1,500 per eligible 2010 Ford (Focus, Fusion, Escape, Ranger,) / (Mustang (excluding GT500), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer 4Dr, Explorer Sport Trac, Transit Connect, E-Series) / (Expedition, F-150 (excluding SVT Raptor), F-Series SuperDuty (excluding F450-F550 chassis cabs), Lincoln MKZ, Lincoln MKS, Lincoln MKX) / (Lincoln MKT) / (Lincoln Navigator). Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Offer is only available OAC from Ford Credit. A, X, Z, D, F plan customers are eligible. Not combinable with Commercial Fleet Incentive program, CPA, GPC or Daily Rental Allowances. On applicable vehicle lines this offer can also be combined with the Commercial Connection Program. Raincheks are only available on the purchase or lease of offer eligible vehicles and the vehicles must be factory ordered during the program period. Vehicles must be delivered on or before January 4, 2010. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Receive 0% APR purchase financing on all new 2010 Ford Focus (excluding S), Fusion (excluding S and Hybrid), Mustang (excluding Value Leader and GT500), Edge (excluding SE) Flex (excluding SE) models for a maximum of 60 months to qualified retail customers OAC from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. E.g., $20,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 60 months, monthly payment is $333.33, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $20,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit. $0 due at signing, when leasing or purchase financing, offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, insurance, fuel fill charge, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all other applicable taxes. Freight and air tax charges to be included in the total amount to be financed. Excluded variable charges can be amortized over a purchase financing term, but are required up front charges for lease customers. See your Ford Dealer for complete details. $0 Security Deposit on the lease of most new 2010 Ford vehicles (excluding 2010 Ford Shelby GT 500, Transit Connect, E-Series (Cutaway, F-150 Raptor, F-350 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines, F-450 & F-550 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines) effective November 3, 2009 through January 4, 2010. Security Deposit may be required by Ford Credit based on customer credit terms and conditions. Receive ($3,000)/($3,500)/($2,000)/($5,000)/($5,500)/($4,000)/($5,000)/($7,000)/($8,000) in price adjustments when you cash purchase, purchase finance or lease a new 2010 Ford (Focus S/Explorer 4 door/F-450-F550 Chassis Cabs Gas Engine)/(Transit Connect/Fusion Hybrid/Escape Hybrid/F-350 Chassis Cabs/F450-F550 Chassis Cabs Diesel Engines)/(Taurus)/(Ranger RegularCab 4EL)/(Fusion S/Edge SE/Flex SE/Escape non-Hybrid/Expedition)/(Mustang V6 Value Leader)/(Ranger SuperCab XL and RegularCab non-4EL)/Ranger SuperCab non-XL/Explorer Sport Trac/(F-150 RegularCab/F-150 SuperCrew)/(F-250 – 450 non-chassis cabs) models. † Offer valid from December 21, 2009, to March 1, 2010 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadian Costco members in good standing, active as at December 20, 2009. Use this $1,000 private Costco offer towards the purchase or lease of a new 2010 Ford Fusion (excluding Hybrid), Taurus, Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500), Edge, Escape (excluding Hybrid), Explorer, Explorer Sport Trac, Expedition, Flex, Ranger, F-150 (excluding Raptor), Super Duty (excluding Chassis Cab), E-Series, Transit Connect, Lincoln MKZ, Lincoln MKS, Lincoln MKX, Lincoln MKT or Lincoln Navigator. This offer is raincheckable, the new vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford Motor Company of Canada dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, and is subject to vehicle availability and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Only one offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one eligible vehicle. Only one offer can be redeemed per eligible Costco member. This offer is transferable to immediate family members living within the same household as an eligible Costco member. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order (if ordered within the Costco program period – December 21st, 2009 to March 1st, 2010) or delivery, but not both. On applicable vehicles, this offer can also be combined with the Commercial Connection Program incentives and, for eligible customers, the Small Business Incentive Program (SBP). For small fleets with an eligible FIN, this offer can also be used in conjunction with the Commercial Fleet Incentive (CFIP). This offer is combinable with the PCL program, but not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives. Customer may use the $1,000 as a down payment or choose to receive a rebate cheque from Ford Motor Company of Canada, but not both. Applicable taxes calculated before $1,000 offer is deducted. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Visit www.fordcostco.ca for details. ‡: Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license.In order to qualify for the Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives, you must qualify for the Government of Canada's "Retire Your Ride Program" and you must turn in a 1995 model year or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been properly registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", Ford of Canada will provide additional incentives towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 Ford or Lincoln vehicle in the amount of $1,000 (Focus, Fusion, Fusion Hybrid, Mustang, Taurus, Transit Connect, Ranger), $2,000 (Escape, Escape Hybrid, Edge, Flex, Taurus X, Explorer, Sport Trac), and $3,000 (F150, F250-550, E-Series, Expedition, MKZ, MKS, MKX, MKT, Navigator). If you qualify, the Government of Canada will provide you with $300 cash or a rebate on the purchase of a 2004 and newer vehicle as part of their Retire Your Ride program. These Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are only in effect from November 3rd to January 4th, 2010. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives will be applied after taxes. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are not available on any vehicle receiving Commercial Fleet Incentive Program, Competitive Price Allowance or Government Price Concession, Fleet Delivery Allowance, or Daily Rental Incentives. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. The Government of Canada's "Retire Your Ride Program" is not available to residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut and, therefore, Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are also not available to residents of North West Territories Yukon or Nunavut. Other provincially specific rewards may be available in association with the government's "Retire Your Ride program", for more information visit retireyourride.ca. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ©2009 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved. ††See your Ford of Canada Dealer or contact SIRIUS at 1-888-539-7474 for more information. "SIRIUS" and the SIRIUS dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. Includes 6 month prepaid subscription. †††Fuel consumption ratings are based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, driving habits and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel efficiency figures based on the 2010 Ford Escape FWD 2.5L-I4 6-speed automatic/2010 Ford Flex FWD 3.5L V6 6-speed auto. ▼Based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales report, December 2008. Based on Ford branded vehicle sales from the manufacturers' month-end release December 2008. ***Most 2010 Ford vehicles, excluding 2010 Model LCF, F-650 and F-750, come with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Powertrain Warranty and full Roadside Assistance benefits together with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Safety Restraint Warranty. In addition, on all 2010 Model F-Super Duty vehicles equipped with the diesel engine, the Powertrain Warranty is extended to 5 year/160,000 km (whichever occurs first), which equals the diesel engine warranty. Some conditions and limitations apply. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673.

BROWN BROS. FORD LINCOLN
270 S.E. Marine Drive
VANCOUVER
604-321-5100 | D5489

COASTAL FORD
5750 Lougheed Highway
BURNABY
604-294-6525 | D8573

DAMS FORD LINCOLN SALES LTD.
14530 104 Avenue
SURREY
604-588-9921 | D5551

CAM CLARK FORD LINCOLN
833 Automall Drive
NORTH VANCOUVER
604-980-2411 | D24977

KEY WEST FORD
301 Stewardson Way
NEW WESTMINSTER
604-520-3055 | D4785

OCEAN PARK FORD
3050 King George Highway
SURREY (WHITE ROCK)
604-531-6100 | D8357

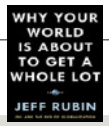
COASTAL FORD
3333 Main Street
VANCOUVER
604-873-2363 | D8573A

DAMS FORD LINCOLN SALES LTD.
19330 Langley Bypass
LANGLEY
604-532-9921 | D5551A

HALLMARK FORD
10025 152nd Street
SURREY
604-584-1222 | D7836

METRO MOTORS
2505 Lougheed Highway
PORT COQUITLAM
604-464-0271 | D5231

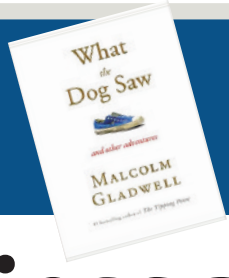
RICHPORT FORD LINCOLN LTD.
Jacombs & Westminster Highway
RICHMOND AUTO MALL
604-273-7331 | D6099



Even more business books for the holidays

For those who work in the financial sector Jeff Rubin is legendary. As CIBC World Markets' chief economist for over 20 years, Rubin's predictions were often unimaginable, yet on the mark. Check out his latest Why Your World is About to get a Whole lot Smaller. CRAIG LUND/FOR METRO CANADA

Workology



More biz book pics

Malcolm Gladwell has become one of Canada's most prolific and successful non fiction authors with his best selling books, Tipping Point, Blink, Outliers and ultimately his latest addition — What the Dog Saw. A perfect gift for the jetsetter or commuter. CRAIG LUND/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

In Canada, even firings and layoffs are polite as can be

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

In the new movie Up In The Air, George Clooney plays a flying executioner patrolling the skies above America's unravelling economy, touching down only to drop the ax on the luckless casualties of the crisis.

Gary Agnew is Canada's answer to Clooney's American horseman of the economic apocalypse, but the veteran of the downsizing industry says such brutishness would never fly in Canada. Where U.S. firms may hire hitmen like Clooney to pull the trigger, Canadian bosses find the courage to do it themselves — with help.

Up In The Air opens wide Dec. 25

Laying someone off is never easy, but there are people and companies out there that make it easier.

"The movie has got a U.S. slant to it and is an exaggerated portrait," says Agnew, a partner at the Calgary-based human-resources company Cenera. "We don't go in and fire people. We train managers in how to do it humanely."

After the layoffs, Cenera helps former staff reer-advancing pivot. But it's not easy. "I think most of my colleagues carry a fairly heavy bag full of emotions because we feel the pain people have been through," he admits.

Genevieve Belben heads up DBM's Atlantic Region and has overseen countless downsizing operations. Local branches of the global career management company handle small-scale layoffs, but Belben flies in when an East Coast company is closing, meaning she doesn't quite share the itinerant life of Clooney's character.

Like Agnew, she rarely participates in the actual terminations. "We're the future focus. We don't want to be tied to the bad news," she says from her Halifax office. "We're retained by a corporation … but we work for the employee."

But no matter how many times she's been through it, D-day is always a bad day. But still, "change is not a bad thing — change spells opportunity," she says.

group. "I've been doing this for 30 years. Let me tell you: 95 per cent of the people I have worked with have gone to positions that are far better than the positions they were in," Agnew says.

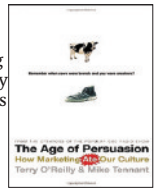
That's what gives him his cheery disposition: He loves helping people turn a career crisis into a ca-

"We don't go in and fire people. We train managers in how to do it humanely."
Cenera's Gary Agnew

BookReview

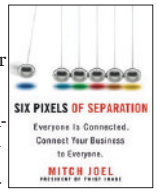
Biz book pics for the holidays

Age of Persuasion
How Marketing Ate Our Culture
Author: Terry O'Reilly & Mike Tennant
Publisher: Knopf Canada
Price: $32



If this book is anything like Terry O'Reilly's radio show, it will be a sure crowd pleaser.

Six Pixels of Separation
Author: Mitch Joel
Publisher: Grand Central
Price: $32.99



Mitch Joel is marketer cum author. As the president of a successful interactive marketing firm, Joel's book argues that with tools like Facebook the world is even smaller.

Switch
Author: Dan and Chip Heath
Publisher: Random House
Price: $32

In this book, the Heath's examine the concept of changing strategy when one is already successful.

Craig Lund, a director with the staffing firm Marketers on Demand, can be reached at craig.lund@marketersondemand.com

NEED CHRISTMAS CASH?
WE PAY WEEKLY!
Fun Flexible Call Centre Downtown
Open 6 Days a week 9am - 9pm
Various Shifts/Full and part time
Call 604.630.5008

FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITY
Become an Aussie Franchise Owner today!
604-601-2090 www.AussiePetMobile.ca

Learn. Experience. Succeed!
TEFL Program - 150 Hours!
TEFL Distance Education Available Online
Archer Education Group
#200 - 525 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, BC, 604-608-0538
vancouveresl@archereducation.com

For the Boss: Christmas Planter
For the Office Team: Poinsettias
For Clients: Fresh Holiday Arrangements
For Everyone on your Holiday List
THOMAS HOBBS
FLORIST
2127 West 41st Ave, Vancouver
604-263-2601 • www.thomashobbsflorist.com

Justice Institute of British Columbia
Canada's leading public safety educator
Special Event:
Join Dr. Reid Wilson, Expert on Anxiety Disorders
Don't Panic: Brief Strategic Treatment of Anxiety Disorders (SPE103)
Learn what is needed for effective and efficient treatment of anxiety disorders. This event will be of interest to therapists, counsellors and others working with individuals struggling with the symptoms of anxiety.
Register Now! 604.528.5590
Date: Jan 21-22 - 9:00am - 4:30pm
Fee: $295; Group Rate (3 or more) $275 (Inc lunch)
Location: JIBC - New Westminster Campus
For more info: www.jibc.ca/csjd
Register: 604.528.5590 or register@jibc.ca

NEW TOY NEW JOY EVENT

UP TO $10,000 IN COMBINED CREDITS≠

SILVERADO — Best V8 fuel efficiency of any full-size pickup.▶

2009
CHEVROLET SILVERADO

$10,000 CASH CREDIT‡
WITH $1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS◀

NO-CHARGE 6" CHROME
SIDE STEPSᵛ

★★★★★
Highest Government
Crash Safety Ratingᵟ

18/25 mpg • 15.4/11.1 L/100 km (City/Hwy)▲

2009
CHEVROLET HHR LT

$3,900 CASH CREDIT‡
WITH $1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS◀

INCLUDES • Front and rear driver and passenger dual stage airbags • StabiliTrak™ • 18" aluminum wheels • Air conditioning • Cruise control • Fog lights • Vehicle theft deterrent system • Electronic traction control • Automatic transmission

★★★★★
Highest Government
Crash Safety Ratingᵟ

29/43 mpg • 9.6/6.6 L/100 km (City/Hwy)▲

HHR — Get up to $1,000 in Environmental Rebates.ᵋ

AVEO — Over $3,000* in additional features vs Toyota Yaris or Honda Fit.

2009
CHEVROLET AVEO LT

INCLUDES:
- A/C
- Power Windows/Doors
- Sunroof
- Cruise Control
- Fog lights
- OnStar®★

★★★★★
Highest Government
Frontal Crash Safety Ratingᵟ

36/50 mpg • 7.9/5.7 L/100 km (City/Hwy)▲

$3,475 CASH CREDIT‡
WITH $1,000 HOLIDAY BONUS◀
AND
0%
FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS▼

60 DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE‡

VISIT YOUR BC CHEVROLET DEALER TODAY.

ask about
Canada's **Best Coverage** ◊

vancouver 2010 CHEVROLET OFFICIAL VEHICLE

bcchevroletdealers.ca

CHEVROLET

NOW AT YOUR BC Chevrolet DEALERS. bcchevroletdealers.ca 1-800-GM-DRIVE. Chevrolet is a brand of General Motors of Canada. ▪ The Official Vehicle Partner of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. TM® 2007. VANOC. Used under License. ▼Purchase financing available on select 2009 models on approved GMAC credit only. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 36 months with $0 down, the monthly payment is $277.78. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Freight included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes not included. Offers apply to the purchase of 2009 new or demonstrator models; dealer order or trade may be necessary, and applies only to qualified retail customers in BC/Yukon. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your participating Chevrolet Dealer for conditions and details. ◊Warranty based on 5 years or 160,000 km, whichever comes first. Excludes medium duty trucks. See Dealer for conditions and details. ‡Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes demos, fleet, lease vehicles and medium duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. Customer must take retail delivery by January 11, 2010. See Dealer or gm.ca for additional details. ≈Service contract required. OnStar® uses existing emergency service providers as well as cellular and satellite technologies. Vehicle electrical system needs to be operating for features to function properly. ▲2009 ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings. You may not achieve these fuel consumption ratings. Actual fuel consumption may vary. ≠$8,000 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit available on 2009 Chevrolet Silverado HD pickups (tax exclusive) for cash customers only. $8,000/$2,475/$1,900 for 2009 Silverado HD Crew Cab/Avalanche LT/HHR LT reflected in offers in this advertisement. Credit will impact the effective APR for finance customers. See your dealer for details. ★Value of additional standard features based on dealer pricing. 2009 Chevrolet Aveo LT Vehicle comparison is based on Aveo LT (1TA48 1SB + CF5), 2009 Yaris 5-Door (K1923M), and 2009 Fit DX (GE8729E). ▶Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings and latest published data for competitive vehicles. Excludes other GM vehicles. ‡For vehicle eligibility and further information, please visit LiveSmart BC at www.livesmartbc.ca. ᵋFor vehicle eligibility and further information, please visit LiveSmart BC at www.livesmartbc.ca. ᵟBased on 2009 model year vehicles tested by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). The 2009 Chevrolet Aveo, Silverado and HHR received a 5-Star rating for the driver and front passenger in the frontal crash test. Silverado and HHR also received a 5-star rating for front and rear seat occupants in the side-impact crash test. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ᵛOffer applies only to 2009MY 1500, 2500, 3500 series Chevrolet Silverado Crew and Extended Cab GMC Pickup trucks (excludes Hybrids) delivered after August 8, 2009. Customer will receive, at no additional charge, one pair of 6" chrome oval assist steps (LPO-VVH) with an MSRP value of over $700. Installation by Dealer included. This offer cannot be combined with the $1,000 2009 GMC Pickup Factory Order Incentive. Dealer trade may be necessary. Offer applies only to qualified retail customers in Canada. Offer available at participating Dealers only. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See your local Chevrolet Dealer for conditions and details. ★Value of additional standard features based on dealer pricing. 2009 Chevrolet Aveo LT Vehicle comparison is based on Aveo LT (1TA48 1SB + CF5), 2009 Yaris 5-Door (K1923M), and 2009 Fit DX (GE8729E). ▶Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings and latest published data for competitive vehicles. Excludes other GM vehicles. ‡For vehicle eligibility and further information, please visit LiveSmart BC at www.livesmartbc.ca.

U of King's College develops new site

The University of King's College has a new-look website. The site describes the Halifax-based institution as a "tightly-knit and extraordinarily lively academic community" recognized nationally and internationally for its interdisciplinary programs in the humanities and journalism. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Employees' first mistake? Contracts

WorkplaceLaw

Think twice, or at least know your rights, before signing your name.

Employees are often the author of their own misfortune. Despite my cautionary writings, they routinely sign contracts replete with unfavourable terms. By doing so, they unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum notice, demoted, or banished to far away jurisdictions, see their salary slashed and prevented from competing with their employer following their departure — all with legal impunity. Just as often, however, Canadian courts are reluctant to enforce these agreements for a variety of reasons. Here are some examples of situations in which a signed contract will be set aside.

When market-research firm Advanis Inc. terminated Paul Dwyer, it sought to rely on an employment contract Dwyer first signed when he started work. The contract stated that "should it be determined there is not a fit between your skills and the requirements of your job, your employment will be terminated and you will receive severance determined by the employment standards act." When Dwyer recently challenged this language, arguing that he was entitled to substantially more than what the contract provided, the court noted that since the contract only confirmed that Dwyer would receive what he was already entitled to, instead of limiting him only to those amounts, it could not be upheld.

"Don't be reluctant to negotiate terms and have any contract reviewed by a lawyer before signing your name."

Once an employee begins work, it is often too late to have him or her sign an agreement, even if on the first day. After a series of interviews, the CIBC extended Trusty Francis an offer of employment. However, on his first day at work he was presented with a number of forms and agreements that attempted to limit his entitlement to three months' salary if he was fired. At trial, the court found that Francis's employment contract was consummated when he agreed to the first offer of employment and, because nothing of new value was given to him when he showed up at work, the forms and agreements he was told to sign were unenforceable. Otherwise, the court reasoned, an employer could unilaterally impose new terms of employment at any time and an employee would be without leverage to negotiate.

In another recent case, the employee was able to successfully establish that he had agreed to an oral offer of employment over the telephone and that by resigning from his current job in reliance on that offer, the contract he was later given could not be enforced. Here, the court noted that because the employee had "no other choice" but to sign the agreement, it would not be appropriate to hold him to its terms.

Challenge contracts where the facts support such an argument. I have prevailed in court by raising the inference that a contract was signed without proper consent. Don't be reluctant to negotiate terms and have any contract reviewed by a lawyer before signing your name.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

The gift your iPhone wants to see under the tree (and it's free!)
Available on the App Store

LOOKING FOR CUSTOMER ORIENTED CANDIDATES
From $600-$1000/week. 10 f/t Positions.Opportunity for rapid growth & advancement. No Exp. Training Provided
CALL FOR AN INTERVIEW
604.451.4466

VOUS ENCADREZ DES EMPLOYÉS OU DES STAGIAIRES ?
DO YOU MANAGE EMPLOYEES OR INTERNS?
BECOME A MORE COMPETENT MANAGER!
- Improve your Managerial Abilities
- Educated Professionals highly in demand
- 6-course program designed for people who supervise staff

Inscrivez-vous maintenant !
Collège EDUCACENTRE College
www.educacentre.com 1.800.747.4825
The French College in British Columbia

RESIDENT CARE ATTENDANT
BC Government approved Curriculum & 8-week Practicum
- The Most Competitive Tuition Fee - $5900
- Student Loans Available & EI Funding Accepted
- Job Placement Assistance Provided

Daytime, Evening and Weekend Classes
www. rcit.edu
Royal Canadian Institute of Technology
Vancouver 604-879-5676 Surrey 604-588-7248

B2B CALL CENTER NEEDS SALES PEOPLE!
Advertising and Fundraising
8:30am - 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Paid Weekly! Earn Christmas Cash Fast!
Call Ward 604.681.3586

Shop, and hire, until you drop

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

Big-box stores will be busy even after the Christmas rush.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY The holidays are right around the corner, and along with the reunions, good times and parties, it means one more thing; something that can be best summed-up in the first five words of a classic 1973 O'Jays tune: For the love of Money.

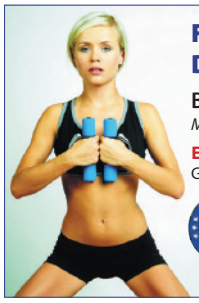
Last year a Scotiabank survey estimated that Canadians would spend an average of $790 on various holiday expenses.

A lot of that cash will be spent in big-box retailers like Future Shop and Best Buy — who are/will be making a combined total of 8,000 hires for the holiday season, stretching from now until the new year. Hires will be offered the same wage as existing employees and also receive full employee discounts for their term — helping to ease the financial burden of the season.

Chris Taylor, head of human resources for Future Shop, says the stores are looking to increase their in-store staff by 40-50 per cent for the month of December. Hires will vary by market and store, so he says interested individuals should inquire at the locations nearest to them.

Taylor, along with Danielle Jang of Best Buy, is anticipating a successful season even though the economy has been in a slump. With great deals on a wide variety of items, they expect the seasonal hires to be quite busy throughout the season. This is especially good for Future Shop sales associates who are able to earn commission.

So what kind of discounts can seasonal hires expect? According to Taylor, it varies on the product. For example, items like laptop computers that are sold at a relatively small margin, will not provide the opportunity for huge savings. Items such as television sets, accessories and other items sold at wider margins, however, will offer staff to take advantage of some great savings opportunities. Every little bit helps around this time.



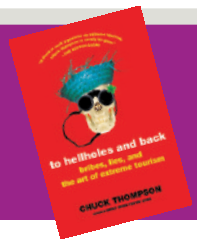
FITNESS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA PROGRAM
Become a Personal Trainer
Morning, Afternoon & Evening Classes
EARN UP TO $70/HOUR
Govt financial aid may be available
Hilltop Academy
604-930-8377
www.hilltopacademy.ca

nimbus School of Recording Arts
The Guess Who
Enroll now to reserve your spot!
604.875.8998 • www.nimbusrecording.com

Going to the Games?
Just in time for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, Zagat has released an updated guide to Vancouver, with recommendations for restaurants and attractions in the city as well as for the ski resort town of Whistler and for beautiful Vancouver Island. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ZAGAT RATED

Travel



Going to hellholes in a hand basket

Author Chuck Thompson sets out to discover if some of the world's most ill-reputed travel destinations live up to their bad raps. Whether he's diving head long into an Indian monsoon or traveling across the Congo in the company of a notorious dictator's bodyguard, To Hellholes and Back delivers Thompson's trademark combination of hilarious stories and wildly provocative opinions, as well as some surprising observations about America's evolving place in the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Getting peace of mind

Le Sport resort promises to inspire and rejuvenate its patrons

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

The tag line reads: "Give us your body for a week, and we will give you back your mind." But what I'm wondering as I arrive for my two-night stay and am welcomed by a boisterous chorus of crickets is if I'm here for just two days, do they give me back a piece of my mind?

Located on the extreme northern side of the island of St. Lucia about a 20-minute drive from the capital of Castries, and about an hour away from the famous Piton volcanic peaks, Le Sport opened in the mid-'80s with health and wellness front and centre. Back then the concept of taking a holiday to launch a healthier lifestyle had not yet gone main stream.

Clearly, the all-inclusive Le Sport was a resort ahead of its time.

In addition to the expected beach resort activities — kayaking, sailing, scuba, for instance — are those that keep many guests returning for an annual retreat.

Daily back-to-back activities begin as early as 7 a.m. with a bicycle tour to nearby Pigeon Island or a guided hike, perhaps up to Mount Du Cap for a bird's eye view of the beach. There are various levels of yoga, meditation, spinning and stretching classes, Tai Chi, introductions to fencing and martial arts ... the list goes on and on and on.

Guests are invited to do as much or as little as they want. Nothing is forced but there are a few not so subtle encouragements here and there.

For instance, there are no TV sets in any of the resort's 154 guest rooms. "We want guests out of their rooms enjoying the many activities and getting in touch with self and (if travelling as a couple) their partner," says brand manager Judy Deterville.

There are also "eating healthy" reminders on the menus and select dishes are starred for things such as low fat and low sodium. While each of the four restaurants offers healthy choices, the selections are mixed in with holiday choices.

So, if you want a burger and fries after a long lazy day of lounging under a beach umbrella —no one's there to lay a guilt trip. The heart of The Body Holiday at Le Sport is The Oasis. I'd say it's one of the largest and most comprehensive spas in the Caribbean, but health and wellness leader, Matthew Powell says they don't like to use the term spa.

"We're so much more than that," he says. "Wellness Centre is more accurate."

In addition to the wide range of programs, one of the main points of distinction of this beachfront all-inclusive is that spa treatments are included. Guests are entitled to one spa treatment a day as part of the package. There are seven treatments to select from including 50-minute scrubs, facials and massages — like the full-body one I tired at the skilled hands of Heidi; one of about 45 therapists who work here. Spa manager Dr. Abhishek (a doctor of Ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy) says about half a dozen staff members are wellness practitioners brought in from different parts of the globe including those that specialize in Reiki, Balinese therapies, Ayurveda, acupuncture, nutrition/iridology and hypno and psycho therapies. In addition to spa treatments and wellness therapies there are also customized programs such as smoking cessation, sleeping restoration and cellulite flush.

The doctor. stresses this is not a restrictive place — no boot camp philosophy — but a place to make subtle but significant changes that can be taken home and implemented into everyday life.

Peace of mind is an added bonus.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com

ANNE DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

The secluded resort offers various levels of yoga, meditation and stretching classes.

ANNE DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Le Sport offers introduction to fencing courses.

45 The number of therapists who work at Le Sport. They feature wellness practitioners brought in from different parts of the globe including those that specialize in Reiki, Balinese therapies, Ayurveda, acupuncture, nutrition/iridology and hypno and psycho therapies

ANNE DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Watersports, such as kayaking and sailing, are popular choices.

Health and Wellness retreat

The Best of China & Taiwan 9 Days
Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Taipei
• First in Canada to tour China & Taiwan featuring EVA Airways cross-strait flights!
• Including airfare from Vancouver, most meals, 4-star hotels, guaranteed departures.
from $2,190 plus taxes
Tour Taiwan 2009 - 2010 旅行台灣年
EVA AIR
LION TRAVEL
The True Asia Travel Expert!
Call 1-877-723-2566 BPCPA #25259
Visit www.lionholidays.com for more ASIA Vacations!

Copies Plus
COPY + IMAGING CENTRE
DISCOVER THE FRIENDLY COMPETITION
QUALITY DIGITAL PRINTING AND COPYING SERVICE
• Reports • Newsletters • Architectural & Engineering drawings
• Booklets • Colour Posters • Training Manuals • Flyers • Sell Sheets
• Powerpoint Handouts • Resume • Overhead Transparencies
• Presentation Folders • Email your files or ftp your large files to us
OVER 22 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN DIGITAL PRINTING
1950 West Broadway • 604.731.7868 • www.copiesplus.ca
OPEN 7 Days • Mon. to Fri. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Sat. to Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Long Lashes
Kiss Me Mascara (Blinc)
The Japanese Mascara that tubes your lashes. No smudges! No flaking! No kidding!
BEAUTY mark
YALETOWN
1120 Hamilton Street, #103
604-642-2294
www.beautymark.ca
BEAUTY mark
www.beautymark.ca

Get a taste of Michigan

Michigan is launching an effort to promote culinary tourism and encourage local offerings on restaurant menus. Cherries, wine, and apple cider are some of the products the state is already known for. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Embrace Canada's cold-weather sport

Dog-sled race organizers looking to bring out big crowds for longest race

Most people think hockey when it comes to winter spectator sports — not a 520-km trek through northern Saskatchewan.

But organizers with the Canadian Challenge are hoping cold-loving Canadians will consider sitting out in the wilderness, instead of at the rink, to watch some of the fastest sled dogs whiz by in a bid to win the country's longest dog derby.

"It's a spectator sport with a difference," says Gill Gracie, president of the Canadian Challenge sled dog race. "You have to be willing to stay up late because it runs 24 hours. We're trying to encourage people actually this year to follow the dogs along."

The Canadian Challenge is actually four sled dog races that start Feb. 10 in Prince Albert, Sask.

Gracie says they put snow on Central Ave. in Prince Albert for the ceremonial start and the dog teams take off across the North Saskatchewan River, heading north. A team leaves every two minutes.

The flagship race is the 12-dog race. Over the course of four days, it runs roughly 520 km from Prince Albert up to La Ronge, north to a little place called Grandmother's Bay and over to Stanley Mission before heading back to La Ronge where the finish line is located.

The race started in 1998 when some mushers in Prince Albert wanted to promote the support of sled dog racing. It's grown to become the longest sled dog race that starts, runs and finishes in Canada. It's also a qualifying race for the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest. The race follows a route similar to that of the old sled dog trail used for years by trappers, the North West Mounted Police and First Nations community to travel between Prince Albert and La Ronge. Most people don't get up to the north but there's a lot to do, says Gracie, who lives in La Ronge. There's snowmobiling, ice fishing and "awesome" cross-country skiing, she says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOSHUA PAGE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Organizers with the Canadian Challenge are hoping cold-loving Canadians will consider sitting out in the wilderness, instead of at the rink, to watch some of the fastest sled dogs whiz by in a bid to win the country's longest dog derby

One dogs gets a little overexcited before the start of the race.

If you go...

- The race starts Feb. 10 at noon in Prince Albert and ends the morning of Feb. 14 in La Ronge. canadianchallenge.com

Travel in brief

TOP 10 IN 2010 If you're looking for inspiration for a trip in the new year, Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2010 offers trends, destinations and experiences around the world. Top 10 cities for next year, according to Lonely Planet, are Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Charleston, S.C.; Cork, Ireland; Cuenca, Ecuador; Istanbul, Turkey; Kyoto, Japan; Lecce, Italy; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Singapore and Vancouver.

RESORT RE-OPENS A popular luxury Florida Keys resort has reopened almost a year after its primary building was ravaged by a New Year's Eve fire. Guests began checking into the 11-hectare Cheeca Lodge Resort&Spa this month as workers completed finishing touches on a new main lodge.

SKIING Sleeping Giant Ski Area in northern Wyoming is opening to skiers for the first time since 2004. The ski area's operators originally had hoped to open as early as Thanksgiving weekend, but their plans were foiled by insufficient snow. Sleeping Giant Ski Area calls itself one of America's oldest ski areas, having originally opened in the late 1930s.

AUSTRALIA If you're looking to escape the winter cold, Australia is the place to be. With Australia currently in the summer season, enjoying a refreshing culinary adventure, a romantic retreat or meeting the local wildlife, has never been hotter. Featured on australia.com , Tourism Australia is offering Australia land-only deals starting from $599 that take advantage of the best of Australia — its food, wine, nature and affordable prices.

WORLD CUP An unforgettable sporting experience of a lifetime awaits Canadian soccer fans, following today's launch of Emirates' 2010 FIFA World Cup travel packages. As an Official Tour Operator for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, Emirates, is offering a number of tailor-made travel packages that include flights, accommodation, ground transportation and match tickets. In Canada, Emirates Travel Packages to the World Cup South Africa will be exclusively distributed through myescapades.ca.

GIVEAWAY The Massachusetts Office of Travel has announced an exclusive opportunity for Visit Massachusetts Facebook fans and Twitter followers called Fan of Massachusetts Hotel Giveaway. For seven weeks, MOTT will give away one hotel night per week on each of their sites to randomly selected fans/followers on Facebook and Twitter. The only qualifier is that you need to be a fan/follower of either Facebook or Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Advance purchase required. For details, please visit greyhound.ca or call 1-800-661-TRIP. New bus design shown here is currently only available on select routes. Restrictions may apply. © 2009 Greyhound Canada Transportation ULC.

Sesame Street actor dies of cancer
Alaina Reed Hall, who portrayed Olivia Robinson on Sesame Street for 12 years, has died. Reed Hall was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 and succumbed Thursday at a Santa Monica, Calif., hospital, her husband, Tamim Amini, told the Los Angeles Times. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

Setting records
Miley Cyrus has broken the record for the largest ever attendance at London's O2 Arena. She played to 16,196 fans during the third of five sold-out concerts at the venue this month. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Trends that defined the decade

iPods, tattoos and reality TV were among the things that changed our lives

Was it only a decade ago that a blackberry was a mere summer fruit? That green was, well, a colour, and reality TV was that one show sandwiched between music videos on MTV?

There were, of course, huge political and social upheavals that roiled our world in the past decade. But there were also the gradual lifestyle changes that you don't always notice — kind of like watching a child grow older. Here's a look at some things that changed our lives:

APPS: There's an app for that! The phrase comes from Apple iPhone advertising, but could apply to the entire decade's gadget explosion, from laptops to GPS systems.

BLOG: I blog, you blog, he blogs ... How did we spend our time before blogging? There are more than 100 million of these web logs out there in cyberspace.

BLACKBERRIES: Considered essential by corporate CEOs and moms planning playdates. Introduced in 2002, the smartphone version is now used by more than 28 million people, according to its Waterloo, Ont.-based maker, Research In Motion Ltd.

CONNECTIVITY: As in, we're all expected to be connected, wirelessly, all the time. Boss emails you on a Sunday? Better answer, unless you're off in Antarctica — you have no excuse.

COUGARS: A new TV series called Cougar Town focuses on a phenomenon that gained its name this decade: women dating younger men.

CROCS: Those ubiquitous plastic clogs debuted in 2002 and became the shoes you loved to hate. Kids love 'em, but there are web groups dedicated to their destruction.

FACEBOOK: Can you believe this social networking site was once limited only to Harvard students? Now it's a time-sucking obsession for more than 300 million users globally.

FOODIE: It's not just that guy in the White House who liked arugula — this was the decade of the foodie, when we all developed gourmet palates. Even a burgers went gourmet.

GOOGLE: This was the decade that Google became a part of our brain function. You know that guy who was in that movie — when was it? Just Google it.

IPODS: An icon of the digital age, it's hard to believe this portable media player was first launched in 2001. Six years later the 100 millionth iPod was sold.

REALITY TV: As a nation, we became addicted to reality TV, from the feuding Gosselins of Jon&Kate Plus 8 to American Idol to Project Runway. At decade's end, the Heenes of Balloon Boy fame and the Salahis of gatecrashing fame give reality TV some unwanted attention.

TATTOOS: It started innocently enough — maybe a butterfly on the shoulder or a tribal symbol on the bicep. A few characters from the Chinese alphabet later it seemed any hipster who really meant it had a full sleeve of tattoos. The trend extended to middle-aged moms and even tween idol Miley Cyrus.

The iPod, right, the Blackberry, far right, and Twitter (co-founder Evan Williams, above) helped define the decade. Meanwhile, Richard Hatch, left, won the first season of the reality TV show Survivor. A new genre of TV soon exploded on the screen.

TEXTING: R u still rding this sty? Hope u r. This is the decade we start communicating in the shorthand of text messages. Get used to it: Email is so '00s.

TWITTER: The new social network introduced tweets, retweets, follows and trending topics — as long as it fit in 140 characters.

WII: In a sea of video games, this simple console became the decade's breakout hit by appealing to the non-gaming masses. Wiis became a centre of family gaming, home fitness and even senior socializing.

WIKIPEDIA: A boon to lazy students everywhere, the open-source encyclopedia used the masses to police its entries and keep them accurate.

YOUTUBE: The video-sharing site was born in 2005. Political candidates in 2008 even had their on channels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gift-Giving With a Difference
Duckling Care $25
BCSPCA Pawsitive Gifts
PawsitiveGifts.ca

YYOGA
intro offer 2 weeks for $30
hot • power • flow • anusara • kripa • yin • pilates • yin
classes for all levels
wellness services • infrared sauna • showers • mat & towel service • boutique
yyoga.ca

Boots for Your Sole
Hailey $200 Nuptse Knee High $180 Alana $200
The North Face Store 792 Granville Street Vancouver 604-677-4770
The North Face Store 2136 West 4th Avenue Vancouver 604-677-6269

Cameron plans Avatar sequels

James Cameron plans to make two further installments to the Avatar franchise. The award-winning filmmaker plans to turn the alien love story into a trilogy, but hasn't started work yet. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Chipmunks sequel lacks soul, story

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel picks up where the original movie left off.

Alvin & The Chipmunks: **The Squeakquel**

Director: Betty Thomas
Stars: Zachary Levi
Classification: G
Rating: ½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When Alvin and the Chipmunks took in over $350 million US at the global box office in 2007, the long-time radio gimmick-turned-Saturday morning cartoon-turned big screen blockbuster was pretty much guaranteed a sequel.

Instead, we got The Squeakquel. And if you find that kind of nauseatingly cute wordplay annoying, wait until you sit through the soulless money-grab that is The Squeakquel.

Picking up pretty much where the first movie left off, The Squeakquel sees the computer-animated pop-star rodents's adopted guardian (Jason Lee) quickly hospitalized after an on-stage accident.

This leaves the Chipmunks in the incapable hands of cousin Toby (Zachary Levi of TV's Chuck), an expendable videogame-obsessed character with all the charm and intellect of a boiled potato.

Sent back to school, the Chipmunks soon face an assortment of stereotypical circumstances (bullying, cliques, etc). But most noteworthy is the introduction of the Chipettes — a triad of female chipmunks that share their counterparts' talent for singing high-pitched pop music.

I suppose they're intended to be adorable but there's something slightly troubling about seeing scantily-clad cartoon characters mimic the booty-shaking moves of Beyoncé's Single Ladies. What's next for toddlers' entertainment? Minnie Mouse krumping to My Humps? What this film is really missing though is a story: Merely spinning the gimmick of a group of gophers crooning contemporary hits in an irritating high-pitch may initially excite a few pre-pubescents but parents be warned — as you search your purse for earplugs, even the little one may disappear out of sheer restlessness and boredom.

On the web

- For an Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel trailer, photos and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Chipmunks screen times

- Tinseltown: Wed 12:05-1:25-2:30-3:45-4:55-6:05-7:15-8:25-9:35 Thu 12:05-1:25-2:30-3:45-4:55-6:05-7:15-8:25
- Park & Tilford: Wed 12:20-2:30-4:45-7:10-9:30 Thu 12:20-2:30-4:45-7:10
- Richmond Centre 6: Wed 3:50-7:15-9:45 Thu 3:50-7:15
- SilverCity Riverport: Wed-Thu 12-12:30-2:30-3-5-5:30-7:20-8-9:40-10:30
- Dolphin Cinemas: Wed 1-3-5-7-9 Thu 1-3-5-7
- SilverCity Metropolis: Wed 12:15-2:20-4:30-7-9:40 Thu 11:35-2-4:30-7-9:40
- SilverCity Coquitlam: Wed 11:35-12-1:55-2:25-4:20-4:55-6:45-7:25-9:15-9:50 Thu 11:35-12-1:55-2:25-4:20-4:55-6:45-7:20-9:15-9:50
- Clova: Wed 1:30-3:45-7 Thu 1:30-3:45
- Strawberry Hill Grande: Wed-Thu 11:55-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:30
- Studio 12 Guildford: Wed 12:15-1:15-2:30-4-4:45-7-7:30-9:30-10 Thu 12:15-1:15-2:30-4-4:45-7-7:30
- Criterion 4 White Rock: Wed 2:10-7-8:45 Thu 2:10
- Colossus Langley: Wed 11:30-11:55-1:55-2:20-4:15-4:45-6:45-7:15-9:30-10:05 Thu

- *Complete listings are also available at metronews.ca/movies.*

Police give Wood assault warning

Wood

PEOPLE A spokesman for Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood says he has been given a formal warning for assault.

David Rigg said police gave Wood the formal warning or caution yesterday after he was arrested earlier this month for assault near his home in Esher in southern England.

Wood divorced last month. His marriage collapsed after he started dating a young Russian woman. A caution is a formal warning given by police. It is not a criminal conviction but police will keep a record of it for five years. Wood said in a statement that he is "greatly relieved this matter is resolved."

When asked about Wood, Surrey Police said that a 62-year-old man had been cautioned over a domestic incident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

TV HBO says Ricky Gervais will be a star voice in a 13-episode animated comedy series early next year. The cable network said yesterday that The Ricky Gervais Show will be based on his wildly popular podcasts. Voices will include Gervais, longtime collaborator Stephen Merchant and their friend Karl Pilkington. Pilkington's musings often inspire the series' offbeat storylines.

COURTS A prosecutor says actor Randy Quaid and his wife Evi have pleaded not guilty to felony charges of defrauding an innkeeper. The couple appeared yesterday in a Santa Barbara courtroom. Deputy District Attorney Lee Carter says they were released on $20,000 bail apiece. The sum had initially been forfeited when the Quaids failed to appear for a hearing last week. They were taken into custody after a previous arrest there on Sept. 24. They are accused of using an invalid credit card to defraud San Ysidro Ranch in Montecito of more than $10,000.

BROADWAY Megan Mullally will return to Broadway in the Roundabout Theatre Company revival of Lips Together, Teeth Apart, Terrence McNally's comedy about two married couples sharing a Fourth of July weekend at a Fire Island beach house. Patton Oswalt is also in the cast. the production will open April 29 at the American Airlines Theatre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On real Jersey shore, everyone's a critic

On MTV's reality television show Jersey Shore, the Beachcomber Bar is a place where the clothes are skimpy and punches can fly.

But there's another reality in the resort town Seaside Heights, which is both a setting and a state of mind on the show about eight buff, tanned twenty-somethings and the havoc they create while living together for a month in a posh home.

As the show airs this month and next, the town of some 3,100 year-round residents is hushed. Most of the boardwalk businesses are closed. Only a few fishermen and some beach rehabilitation workers are out. The Ferris wheel and carnival games are shuttered.

And the people who are around this time of year say this just isn't the same place as the one on the show, which was filmed in the summer when the town's population grows tenfold with families at the beach by day and a sometimes wild club scene by night.

Just as one group of Italian-Americans has protested, claiming the show gives them a bad name, many locals think it smears the community.

"You're trying to create a family town, and you got a bunch of kids acting very rude, and it doesn't create a good image," said John LaStalla, a 44-year-old native and municipal worker.

The stars, mostly Italian-Americans with only one from New Jersey, dance, pump iron and party — a lot. They work in a T-shirt shop — a little. And their specialty is drama, whether it involves each other, the people they meet, boyfriends from home or moms. Though unscripted, there are echoes of sitcoms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Next Bond will be "gripping"
The next James Bond will have a "shocking" story. Screenwriter Peter Morgan, who wrote the scripts for The Queen and Frost/Nixon, suggested that the third outing of Daniel Craig as Bond would grip audiences. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

More than just holiday cheer

10-member a cappella choir makes moves to become a mainstream act

Imagine this: By day you're a typical businessman, working the nine to five. Your nights and weekends, however, are spent sharing a stage with nine other guys just like you — performing a cappella songs in small venues while recording an album under Atlantic Records.

That was the double life for the members of Straight No Chaser, an a cappella choir of 10 men who formed in 1996 during their college years at Indiana University.

They say their pursuit in music was experimental at first. Dan Ponce even jokes that they got together because they "wanted to sing to sorority girls."

"It was an interesting balance for that first year," said Ponce, who formed the group, which performs with eight of its original members.

Charlie Mechling, to laughs from the other group members, recalled how he earned a lot of frequent-flier miles jetting between his job and rehearsals.

"I was leaving Friday night from my life in Vegas, coming to New York, recording, rehearsing and then taking a redeye back," he said. "I felt like a businessman that didn't have any benefits or paycheque."

In college, some of the guys studied music, but not all of them. Others focused on mathematics, journalism or biology, among other subjects.

"We were there connected because we all loved a cappella singing," Ponce said.

The group first caught attention when the CEO of Atlantic Records saw on YouTube its rendition of 12 Days of Christmas, which has been viewed more than 10 million times.

Once signed, the group recorded a Christmas CD, Holiday Spirits, released in September 2008. It followed that with another holiday album, Christmas Cheers, which has a studio version of 12 Days and was released last month.

"Our first album is your more traditional, gather-round-by-the-fire, relaxing, very soothing album," member Seggie Isho said. "Christmas Cheers is where you loosen up your tie, and it's the party album."

But more than just creating CDs good for stuffing Christmas stockings, the singers hope to be played on iPods off-season, too.

While on a North American tour, which wraps up this month, the group is performing holiday tunes as well as hit songs from the Billboard charts. In August it released Six Pack, a six-song EP with covers from Amy Winehouse's Rehab to Stevie Wonder's Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours. The group also says it's working on a pop album to showcase how it can be more than a "Christmas comedy act."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTO COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS

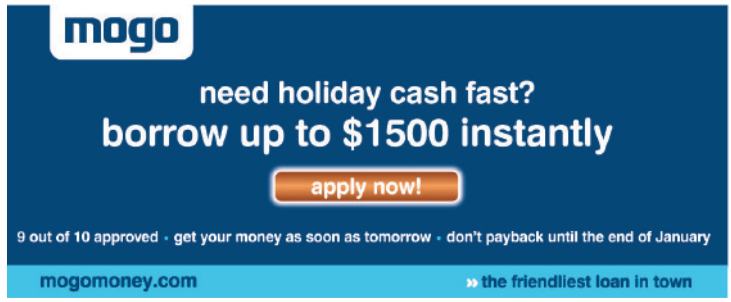
A cappella choir Straight No Chaser recently released Christmas Cheers. During their North American tour — in addition to holiday tunes — the group performed songs from the Billboard charts.

Real life Rain Man dies, age 58

OBIT The man who inspired the title character in the Oscar-winning movie Rain Man has died. Kim Peek was 58. His father, Fran, says Peek had a major heart attack Saturday morning and was pronounced dead at a hospital in the Salt Lake City suburb of Murray.

Peek was a savant with a remarkable memory and inspired writer Barry Morrow when he wrote Rain Man, the 1988 movie that won four Academy Awards. Fran Peek said his son met Morrow at a convention in the early 1980s and the writer was taken with Peek's knack for retaining everything he heard.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In brief

TELEVISION The winner of the CBS reality television show Survivor: Samoa says she took a huge gamble by quitting her job to be on the show. The gamble paid off Sunday for 26-year-old Natalie White of Van Buren, Ark., when it was revealed she won the competition and $1 million prize. White had worked as a saleswoman for Teva Pharmaceuticals USA. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit:
metronews.ca/movies

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/23/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrooge ★★★ (1951) Alastair Sim, Kathleen Harrison. (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	9 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	5 CTV	Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	Rita MacNeil		Home for the Holidays (2005, Drama) Sean Young. Premiere.				CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	The Nativity Story ★★ (2006, Drama) Keisha Castle-Hughes.				P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Glee (CC)		Christmas Town (2008) Nicole de Boer, Patrick Muldoon. (CC)				News
	256	389	12 VI	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Lives of the Saints (2005) (Part 2 of 2) Sophia Loren. (CC)				Stargate Atlantis "Aurora"		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries (CC)		Community	Community	Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl "The Lost Boy"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	A Home for the Holidays		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY "Green Piece" (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Mercy "Pulling the Goalie"		Mercy (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	A Wind at My Back Christmas (2001) Dylan Provencher.				He Sees You When You're Sleeping (2002) Erika Eleniak.				Confidential
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Grinch Stole	The Middle	Family	The Middle	Cougar Town	Cougar Town	KOMO 4 News
	-	-	28 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Wedding Singer ★★★ (1998) Adam Sandler.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	OpenRoad	Steves Europe	Christmas at Belmont (N)		Great Performances Doomed lovers. (N) (CC)				Keeping
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Glee "Preggers" (CC)		Glee (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	(6:00) Great Performances (N)		Christmas Tree Lighting		Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Downe in Yon Forrest	
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Bosley Hair	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl "The Lost Boy"		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity-test results.	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	26 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	Princess Diana		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Princess Diana		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	PartyPoker.net		Hockey	Canucks TV	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Calgary Flames. (CC)				SportsCentre	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto.			SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	College Football			Score Now	Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Pass Time	Dangerous Drives		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Toronto-Today	MLS Weekly	Toronto	Gol TV News	MLS Weekly	Toronto-Today	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	The Santa Claus Brothers		A Miser Brothers' Christmas		Fries That?	Mon. Warriors	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Annabelle's Wish (CC)			Wayside	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Frst Snw-Wint	Yo Gabba	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Canadian Brass-Christmas		Indian School	Indian School	Christmas in Vienna 2005		An Indigo Christmas		Days Before
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Christmas in Whistler		Moonlight and Mistletoe (2008) Candace Cameron Bure.				Home Imp.
	570	580	42 MM	My Date	disBAND	House	Selena Gomez	Video on Trial (CC)		Video on Trial	Muchmusic Countdown (CC)	
	600	564	48 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Unsellable	Intervention	Property	Unsellable	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Steven Seagal
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:00) Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones ★★				Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith ★★★ (2005) Ewan McGregor.				
	521	560	84 TLC	Accidental Fortune (CC)		Mega-Tsunami: 5 Years Later		Lottery Changed My Life		Accidental Fortune (CC)		Tiger Woods
	616	522	63 SHO	The Outer Limits "The Camp"		The Guard "The Hold" (CC)		Cra$h & Burn (CC)		Bones (CC)		NCIS "SWAK"
	620	523	40 BVO	White Collar (CC)		Law & Order "Mayhem"		Without a Trace (CC)		White Collar (CC)		Red Shoe
	601	562	41 SLC	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada	What	Work Out "Sky-Lab 2.0"		Brat Camp (CC)		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Operation Babylift"		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday "Operation Babylift"		Mighty Ships "MV Resolution"		Peak to Peak
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Pilots NWT (N) (CC)		Life After People (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ice Pilots NWT (CC)		Outlaw Bikers
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Shaun of the Dead (CC)		(:10) Warriors of Terra (2006) Edward Furlong. Premiere. (CC)				(:10) Feast ★★ (2006) Navi Rawat. (CC)		
	294	650	57 TBS	House-Payne	Meet-Browns	Lopez Tonight		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	King	King	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	Whatever	Family Guy	King	King
	603	561	62 FN	Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Jamie Cooks Christmas		Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Italian Escape
	-	-	63 AMC	(5:00) Kelly's Heroes ★★★ (1970, War) (CC)			Escape From Alcatraz ★★★ (1979) Clint Eastwood, Patrick McGoohan. (CC)					Bridge
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park	RENO 911! (N)	RENO 911! (N)	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) Global Metal (2008) (CC)		Across the Universe ★★ (2007) Evan Rachel Wood. (CC)				(:15) The International ★★ (2009) (CC)		
	581	566	161 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	MTV News	Teen Mom "Fallout" (CC)		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Christmas Crl	Tabernacle	Tell It On The Mountain (CC)		A Christmas Carol (2000) Ross Kemp. (CC)		Mormon-Choir		Paid Program
	-	-	189 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

critics'corner

Glee
Emmy winner Kristin Chenoweth ("Pushing Daisies") turns in a hilarious yet also poignant guest appearance as April Rhodes, a boozy but very talented former classmate whom Will (Matthew Morrison) recruits to give the glee club more of an edge. The move, however, only puts more strain on his already tense relationship with Rachel (Lea Michele). Stephen Tobolowsky also guest stars in "The Rhodes Not Taken." 8 PM on GTV

Great Performances
Two of the opera world's reigning superstars, Russian soprano Anna Netrebko and Mexican tenor Rolando Villazon, star as doomed lovers Mimi and Rodolfo in director Robert Dornhelm's lush film adaptation of Giacomo Puccini's 1896 romantic blockbuster "La Boheme." Given its tragic ending, the piece may seem an unlikely holiday offering, but in fact, it's perfect: The first two acts even unfold on Christmas Eve. Nicole Cabell co-stars as Musetta. 6 PM on PBS

Ellen and Portia top favourite celeb couples list

Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi have a lot of fans. In a popeater.com poll asking who was the favorite celebrity couple of the year, the talk show host and actress took the top honour. POPEATER.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Murphy's death 'destroyed' husband

MORE DETAILS EMERGE Brittany Murphy's death has "destroyed" her husband, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The late Clueless actress' spouse, British screenwriter Simon Monjack, has spoken out about his beloved wife — who died of a cardiac arrest at her Los Angeles home aged just 32 on Sunday — and his devastation at her passing.

He said on Monday that, "My world was destroyed yesterday."

Monjack has also denied rumours Brittany had been mixing with "controlling" people.

He explained: "I don't know why anyone would think that. She found love. We found love. Brittany didn't get to where Brittany was with anyone controlling her — Brittany was Brittany."

In related news, Los Angeles coroner's officials are looking into how details of an investigator's report on Brittany Murphy's death were leaked to TMZ.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter says he doesn't know how the website apparently obtained the confidential report.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Is Tiger looking to mend image on SNL?

MEANWHILE, HE'S ON A BOAT Tiger Woods may be viewing a surprise appearance on Saturday Night Live as the best way to mend his image, according to MSNBC. "He's a little incredulous at the way he's being judged," a source says. "He thinks his golf game should be all people care about. If he went on SNL it would definitely change the conversation." Meanwhile, his yacht, Privacy, has set sail, possibly with Woods on it. "Tiger's boat Privacy has been docked at Old Port Cove in North Palm Beach for more than a week," a source tells People magazine. "On Saturday morning, after stocking up on provisions from Costco, the boat left town."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Josh Groban doesn't want to procrastinate alone, Lady Gaga is worried about the revellers at her show, and Katy Perry drives a stake through the vampire rumours.

- @joshgroban Anyone else saving christmas shopping for 4 pm on thurs?
- @ladygaga on a scale of 1 to 10 exactly HOW intoxicated are you in the crowd. PLEASE don't faint in crowd tonight little monsters, it distracts me :)
- @katyperry Read a bunch of yesterdays-news-BULLOCKS. Ppl should know by now that I don't do vampires, but I do, DO @rustyrockets. Don't get it TWISTED!

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hills star moves to Splitsville

LADIES, TRY TO CONTAIN YOURSELVES Another couple from The Hills is reality-TV history. Brody Jenner and Playboy model Jayde Nicole have broken up after about 15 months together, a source close to Jenner confirms to usmagazine.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Portman grateful to be an only child?

HOW DO YOU KNOW *THEY* WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE TALENTED ONES, NAT? Natalie Portman doesn't believe she would have become an actress if she'd had brothers or sisters. The star is an only child and doesn't believe her parents would have been able to devote so much time to her and take her to all her auditions if she'd had siblings, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"I had the sole attention of my parents. And you know what? If I had had brothers or sisters I would have never become an actress," she said.

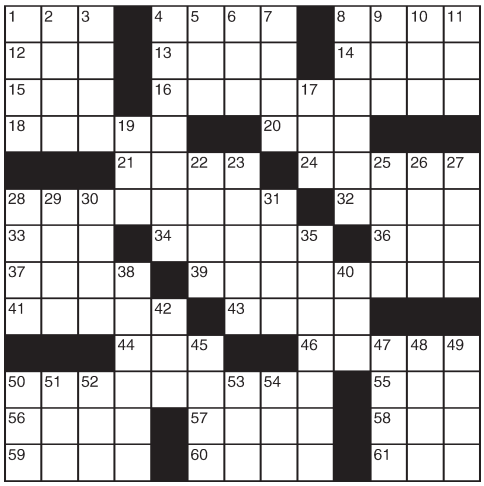
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Check directory or log onto www.cineplex.com, www.cinemark.com, www.empiretheatres.com, www.landmarkcinemas.com, or www.tribute.ca for locations and showtimes

The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2009
Today Variable 4°/ -2°
Thursday Sunny 3° / -1°
Friday Sunny 4°/ 1°
You have voted us #1 for best forecasts on TV. Thank you Canada!

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



ACROSS

ACROSS
1 Massachusetts cape
4 Eager
8 React in horror
12 Lawyers' org.
13 Baseball team
14 Church section
15 Part of H.R.H., at times
16 "The Clue in the Crossword Cipher" solver
18 Asian leader who inspired a jacket style
20 Small barrel
21 "Oh, woe!"
24 Antitoxin
28 Tapped
32 Ripped
33 Tatter
34 Binge
36 Past
37 Bit for Fermi
39 Patron of Scotland
41 Foundation
43 Not pizzicato
44 Slight application
46 Friars Club honor
50 "The Price Is Right" host
55 Scrooge's cry
56 Tittle
57 Unmacho type
58 Work with
59 Vacillate
60 Lummox
61 "Honor — father ..."

DOWN

1 Songwriter Sammy
2 Theater trophy
3 Morse's T
4 Ring
5 By way of
6 Hostel
7 Ship's floor
8 Thingie
9 Springtime abbr.
10 Away from NNW
11 Church perch
17 "Absolutely"
19 Uncooked
22 iPhone downloads
23 In a way, slangily
25 Bellow
26 Incite
27 Cat call
28 Hardly colorful
29 — -tat-tat
30 Hollywood clashers
31 Approach
35 Put into code
38 Carnival area
40 Scooby- —
42 Pouch
45 Cry loudly
47 Touch
48 Obi or cummerbund
49 Yon folks
50 Insult
51 Tier
52 Greek vowel
53 "Flying Down to —"
54 Ostrich's cousin

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4							2
		9	1					
2		8		7	4			5
					3		8	1
		4		1		7		
6	3		8					
9			7	5		8		3
					6	9		
8							5	

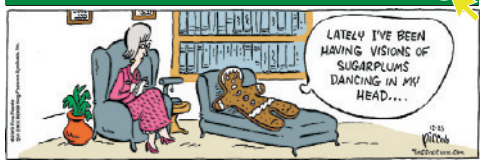
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

H	A	J	J	■	S	K	I	P	■	P	S	I
A	L	A	I	■	U	N	T	O	■	O	A	R
D	I	R	T	Y	P	O	O	L	■	O	F	A
■	■	■	N	E	S	T	■	E	L	L	E	N
W	I	S	E	S	■	■	A	M	O	S	■	■
A	S	H	Y	■	F	A	M	I	S	H	E	D
D	N	A	■	M	A	G	I	C	■	A	P	E
S	T	R	E	A	K	E	D	■	C	R	E	E
■	■	K	L	E	E	■	■	M	A	K	E	R
Y	E	T	I	S	■	O	U	R	S	■	■	■
O	V	A	■	T	A	N	K	S	U	I	T	S
D	E	N	■	R	I	C	E	■	A	C	H	E
A	R	K	■	O	R	E	S	■	L	Y	O	N

4	5	3	7	6	2	1	9	8
2	9	6	1	4	8	7	5	3
7	8	1	5	3	9	6	4	2
6	2	8	3	9	5	4	7	1
3	4	5	8	7	1	2	6	9
1	7	9	6	2	4	3	8	5
8	3	4	2	5	7	9	1	6
9	1	2	4	8	6	5	3	7
5	6	7	9	1	3	8	2	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Pan-fried Chicken with Mushrooms and Blueberries

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
4 skinless chicken breast fillets
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
3 strips bacon, chopped
1/2 lb (250 g) chestnut mushrooms, sliced
1 tbsp (15 ml) Dijon mustard
7 oz (200 g) blueberries
Juice of 1/2 lemon
3 tbsp (45 ml) finely chopped fresh parsley

METHOD:

1. Put flour into shallow dish and season well, then spread out. Add chicken breasts and turn to coat. Shake off excess.
2. Heat oil in frying pan over medium-high heat. Add chicken, reduce heat to medium and cook until well browned underneath. Turn over to brown other side. Pierce middle of one breast with point of knife to check that meat is no longer pink.
3. Transfer chicken to serving dish. Add bacon to pan and cook, stirring, until cooked and fat runs out. Add mushrooms and continue to cook over fairly high heat, stirring, 2 minutes.
4. Add mustard to pan and stir with mushrooms and bacon. Gently stir in blueberries. Add lemon juice, stir and immediately remove pan from heat.
5. Sprinkle in parsley, then spoon mushrooms and blueberries over chicken and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You may have bitten off a bit more than you can chew but there is no need to panic because in a matter of days you will get your second wind.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You may be tempted to put off finishing something that has begun to take up a lot of time but considering the effort, that would be a waste.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It is of the utmost importance that you keep your thoughts positive, even though a number of negative things appear to be happening in your life.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A relationship that has been through a tough time of late will get easier for both of you when love planet Venus moves into your opposite sign.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
The problem you are grappling with has a simple solution but you seem unable to see it because you have convinced yourself that there isn't one.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Cut back on your commitments. Do fewer things for other people. That might sound selfish but you have been giving too much of yourself.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
What other people want is irrelevant. It would appear that someone has been playing on your feelings to further their own position.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Something that has caused you a great deal of mental and emotional anguish will resolve itself to your satisfaction today.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may not want to admit defeat but it seems you have no choice in the matter. Push your ego to one side and don't think it reflects badly on you.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
If you focus your mind too intently in one particular direction today you may miss out on something even more important, and enjoyable.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart is making you feel vulnerable at the moment but there is no need to fear the worst.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Someone will say something less than friendly to you or about you today and you won't be too happy about it.

EURO CHARM
Skincare and Body Clinic
20% off for all Laser Services
We carry Dr. Spiller skincare products and Life Extension supplements
Where wellnes meets beauty
• Cellulite and slimming treatments • Botox and fillers • Non-surgical face and body lifting • Hydrotherapy • Gym facilities with ProElliee • Aqua massage and oxygen bar • Laser hair removal • Skin rejuvenation • Cellulite reduction • Psoriasis treatments • Chemical peels & microdermabrasion • All traditional day spa services available as well
15% off Day Spa Services
795 /unit Botox
Valid until December 30, 2009
604.568.2575 • www.eurocharm.ca
3401 East Hastings Street, Vancouver • eurocharm@shaw.ca
ONE BLOCK EAST OF PNE • FREE PARKING

This day in history

1954: The first human kidney transplant is performed by Dr. Joseph E. Murray at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.
1970: The North Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, New York City is topped out at 1,368 feet (417 m), making it the tallest building in the world.
1972: The 16 survivors of the Andes flight disaster are rescued after 73 days, having survived by cannibalism.
1986: Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, lands at Edwards Air Force Base in California becoming the first aircraft to fly non-stop around the world.

FRIDAY'S JACKPOT
$25 Million EST.
Lotto MAX
bclc Know your limit, play within it. 19+ YEARS

Mirror, mirror, what is my secret?

Experience only at the Bay the luminosity of Ange ou Démon Le Secret.
For a limited time only, receive a couture inspired roller ball travel set of Givenchy's star fragrances with any purchase of a large size spray from the Givenchy Women's Collection.

While quantities last. One gift per customer.

Only at the Bay